A 40-Day Personal Journey
FOR INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP USE

God’s Armorbearer
Volumes 1 & 2

TERRY NANCE
All rights reserved. This book is protected by the copyright laws of the United States of America. This book may not be copied or reprinted for commercial gain or profit. The use of short quotations or occasional page copying for personal or group study is permitted and encouraged. Permission will be granted upon request. Unless otherwise identified, Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scriptures marked NKJV and AMP are taken from the New King James Version and the Amplified Bible, respectively. Please note that Destiny Image's publishing style capitalizes certain pronouns in Scripture that refer to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and may differ from some publishers' styles.

Take note that the name satan and related names are not capitalized. We choose not to acknowledge him, even to the point of violating grammatical rules.

Text compiled by Jan Sherman.

DESTINY IMAGE®, PUBLISHERS, INC.
P.O. Box 310, Shippensburg, PA 17257-0310

"Speaking to the Purposes of God for this Generation and for the Generations to Come."

This book and all other Destiny Image, Revival Press, MercyPlace, Fresh Bread, Destiny Image Fiction, and Treasure House books are available at Christian bookstores and distributors worldwide.

For a U.S. bookstore nearest you, call 1-800-722-6774. For more information on foreign distributors, call 717-532-3040. Or reach us on the Internet: www.destinyimage.com

ISBN 10: 0-7684-2353-8

For Worldwide Distribution, Printed in the U.S.A.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 / 09 08 07 06
Contents

Day 1  Revelation of an Armorbearer ..................... 5
Day 2  Developing the Spirit of an Armorbearer .......... 9
Day 3  Duties of an Armorbearer—Part 1 ............... 13
Day 4  Duties of an Armorbearer—Part 2 ............... 17
Day 5  Duties of an Armorbearer—Part 3 ............... 21
Day 6  Duties of an Armorbearer—Part 4 ............... 25
Day 7  Function of an Armorbearer ...................... 29
Day 8  Armorbearers of the Old Testament ............... 33
Day 9  Two Different Armorbearers ..................... 37
Day 10 The Ministry of Armorbearing ................... 41
Day 11 Faithful Armorbearing ............................. 45
Day 12 The Service of an Armorbearer ................... 49
Day 13 The Cry of God’s Leaders ......................... 53
Day 14 Send Me a Joshua! ................................. 57
Day 15 Steps to Develop the Spirit of an Armorbearer . 61
Day 16 Fields White Unto Harvest ....................... 65
Day 17 The Anointing of an Armorbearer ................. 69
Day 18 Recognizing the Human Side of Leaders ........ 73
Day 19 Recognizing the Right of Divine Authority .... 77
Day 20 Giving Birth to God’s Will ....................... 81
Day 21  Understanding Our Assignment and Appreciating Our Gifts .......................... 85
Day 22  The Hour of the Local Church ......................... 89
Day 23  Armorbearers Are Vital for Churches ............... 93
Day 24  Successful Keys to Blooming Where You Are Planted ................................. 97
Day 25  Keys to Longevity—Understanding the Call of God .............................. 101
Day 26  Keys to Longevity—Those Who Seek God Will Follow a Vision ..................... 105
Day 27  Keys to Longevity—Stay Where God Puts You 109
Day 28  Keys to Longevity—Trust and Obey................. 113
Day 29  Keys to Longevity—Patience and Flexibility ... 117
Day 30  Keys to Commitment—Loyalty and Faithfulness ................................. 121
Day 31  Keys to Commitment—Do Not Be Too Big or Too Small ............................. 125
Day 32  Keys to Commitment—Always Do Your Best.... 129
Day 33  Keys to Attitude—Willingness and Thankfulness 133
Day 34  Keys to Attitude—A Servant’s Heart ............... 137
Day 35  Keys to Attitude—Understanding Authority ... 141
Day 36  Keys to Attitude—Five Structures of Authority 145
Day 37  Keys to Attitude—Reproof .............................. 149
Day 38  Keys to Teamwork—Walking Without Offense and Use Your Talents ............... 153
Day 39  Keys to Teamwork—You Are Important and Needed ............................... 157
Day 40  Keys to Teamwork—Run With the Vision ......... 161
Day 1

Revelation of an Armorbearer

And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armorbearer (1 Samuel 16:21).
We live in a world that seems to know very little about laying down one’s life for another. A full understanding of this concept is vital to the Christian, especially if he knows he has been called into the ministry.

Instead of offering ourselves to wait on others, we in the Church often expect them to wait on us. This is particularly true of our attitude toward the man or woman of God.

[Also,] there is a great fear today among many pastors that their associates are out to steal the sheep from them. As a result, there is little or no trust between the pastor and his assistant, no flow between the two of them. I believe God has someone prepared for every pastor...someone to stand with him in the ministry.

I see today great ministries which are built around one person. What will happen when he is gone? It is of no credit to a pastor, or any man of God, to know that when he leaves town the sheep cannot function....

Where would we be today if Jesus had not put a portion of Himself into the twelve disciples? What would have happened if...there had been no one...to take up His ministry on earth?

...Jesus’ ministry increased and multiplied. That’s because there were armorbearers standing with Him.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 11-13.)
1. What does “laying down one’s life for another” mean to you? Why is a full understanding of this concept vital to Christians? Why is it especially vital if we are called into ministry?

2. Why do you think so many in the Church expect the leaders to serve them, rather than having a heart to serve the leaders? What does this kind of attitude reveal about the hearts of many in churches today? Do you see this attitude prevalent in your church?

3. Have you seen fear between the pastor and those who serve in high positions of leadership under them? Have you personally experienced the outcropping of such fear? What do you think is at the root of such distrust?

4. Have you seen a ministry built around one person die after that person left? Why do you suppose the mantle was not picked up by another? Why couldn’t people accept a new leader and just continue on in the ministry?

5. As you study Jesus’ example of discipleship training, where do pastors tend to fail or find it difficult to train their leaders? Where do the leaders they train seem to fail? How has your attitude been toward others you have served? Have you been trustworthy?
“You and I will never flow in the anointing of Elisha until we have learned to serve an Elijah. It is not difficult to claim that we are submitted to Jesus, but the question is: are we submitted to another human being? That is a different story.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 12)

Submission is a word that can bring feelings of pain or fear, or it can bring feelings of release. What feelings does this word bring to your heart? Take time to ask the Lord to bring release through submission in your life.
DAY 2

Developing the Spirit of an Armorbearer

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13).
The word armorbearer [appears] eighteen times in...the Old Testament. ...

...the King James word armourbearer was translated from two Hebrew words. The first is nasa or nacah (naw-saw'). This is a primary word meaning “to lift.” ... Some of [its] applications are to: accept, advance, bear, bear up. carry away, cast, desire, furnish, further, give, help, hold up, lift, pardon, raise, regard, respect, stir up, yield.

The second Hebrew word is keliy (kel-ee' ), which comes from the root word kalah (kaw-law'), meaning “to end.” Some of the applications of this root word are to: complete, consume, destroy utterly, be done, finish, fulfill, long, bring to pass, wholly reap, make clean riddance.

From these two Hebrew words, we can see the duty of the armorbearer was to stand beside his leader to assist him, to lift him up, and to protect him against any enemy that might attack him....

[The concept of the armorbearer] will help anyone who is a part of the Body of Christ, anyone who desires to fulfill his or her God-given call. ...You will never arrive at a place where you do not have to submit to anyone. The spirit of the armorbearer is the spirit of Christ. It is the heart of a servant.

(Quote from God's Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 13-15.)
1. To whom have you been an armorbearer? List names of people you have served in ministry. To whom are you currently an armorbearer? How easy has it been to serve another? Are some people easier to serve than others? Why is this possible?

2. Looking at the first Hebrew word translated armorbearer, nasa, take time to examine each application listed above. Rate yourself according to each one, honestly examining your own ability to apply the spirit of an armorbearer to your ministry. Where are you weakest? Where are you strongest? Where would you like to grow more?

3. Do the same for the second Hebrew word translated armorbearer, keliy. Take time to examine each application listed above. Rate yourself according to each one, honestly examining your own ability to apply the spirit of an armorbearer to your ministry. Where are you weakest? Where are you strongest? Where would you like to grow more?

4. When can assisting a leader be difficult to do? Does this have to do with the tasks asked of the armorbearer? Does it have to do with any baggage these requests may carry with them? Is it easy for you to lift up another, even when they have treated you unfairly? How can we lift up others without being “false” in such situations?

5. How do leaders need protected against enemies? How do we know who their enemies are? Do we need the spirit of discernment to determine which people are for or against our leaders?
“Like everyone…I too have to deal with the temptation to get into strife, to refuse to submit in some areas of life. But the Lord has given me grace and I have learned to call upon Him and to trust Him completely to direct my steps. You too can be set free from rebellion, strife and contention when you develop the spirit of an armorbearer.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 14–15)

Think back to times of ministry when rebellion knocked at the door of your heart. Look back at times when strife and contention were a part of relationships around you in the ministry. Take time to ask the Lord to heal you from any wounds that may have been caused at these times. Ask Him to forgive you for any sins you may have committed in reaction to others. Release those leaders from any anger or bitterness your heart harbors toward them. Ask the Lord to give you the spirit of an armorbearer.
DUTIES OF AN ARMORBEARER—PART 1

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation (Romans 13:1-2).
The main function of one who is designated as an armorbearer is that of service.... Let's look at some of the different forms this service takes.

An armorbearer...

1. **Must provide strength for his leader.** By his very presence, a true armorbearer will always display and produce an attitude of faith and peace....

2. **Must have a deep-down sense of respect for his leader, and acceptance for, and tolerance of, his leader's personality and his way of doing things.** God made us all different. At least fifty percent of the time, your pastor's way of doing things will differ from yours. That difference should not be allowed to cause a problem [between you]....

3. **Must instinctively understand his leader's thoughts.** ...Remember, the disciples...did not begin to think as He thought until after He had died, been buried and resurrected, ascended into heaven and sent the Holy Ghost. Just as God's Spirit was eventually imparted to these men, after a period of time your pastor's spirit will come upon you, and you two will become like-minded.

4. **Must walk in agreement with and submission to his leader.** ...We must not look at the person, but at the office he occupies. ...We obey, not the individual himself, but God's authority in him.

(Quote from *God's Armorbearer, Volume 1*, Pages 17-19.)
1. In what ways do you think an armorbearer can provide strength for his leader? In what practical ways can this strength be demonstrated? How well do you strengthen those who are in authority over you?

2. How easy is it for you to display and produce an attitude of faith and peace? Do you allow circumstances to dictate whether these are functioning in your life? What are things that could trigger a negative response from you? How do you safeguard against these?

3. Is it easy for you to develop a sense of respect for leaders when they have different personality “quirks” or ways of doing things that you would not choose? Why do so many of us want to change the leaders to suit our personalities? How are you able to not just accept the difference between you and leaders above you, but adjust so that you can allow them the freedom to function in their own personalities?

4. Have you ever walked closely with someone in ministry so that you could instinctively know their thoughts? How does this transfer happen? When your thoughts differ from your leaders’ thoughts, why is it good to get feedback as to why and how they think the way they do?

5. How do people “walk in agreement” with one another? What does this mean? How can you tell whether this is happening or not? How difficult is it for you to separate the person from the office he holds? Why do we need to focus on the authority God has given them and not their human weaknesses?
“Most Christians do not understand the true meaning of submission to authority. The Bible teaches that all authority has been instituted by God Himself, so to refuse to submit to God’s delegated authority is to refuse to submit to God.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 19)

Do you agree with this, not just in principle, but in practice? Take time to ask the Lord to give you a greater perspective of how submission works, and ask Him to show you where you need to submit to a higher degree.
For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God (1 Peter 2:20).
We are continuing to examine the function of one who is designated as an armorbearer.... Let's look at some of the different forms this service takes.

An armorbearer...

5. Must make the advancement of his leader his most important goal. ...[God] said to me: “Son, you are not to live for the fulfillment of your dreams or vision. Set it as your goal to achieve your pastor's dreams, and I will make sure that yours are fulfilled.”...

6. Must possess endless strength so as to thrust, press and force his way onward without giving way under harsh treatment. ...There will be times...when you and I will feel that we are being wrongfully treated. These types of situations are bound to arise, but do not allow satan to put resentment into your heart. Learn to give the situation over to the Lord and endure what comes patiently....

7. Must follow orders immediately and correctly. In order to be a good leader, one must be a good follower. And being a good follower means taking care of things quickly and efficiently....

8. Must be a support to his leader. Every pastor needs a group of faithful supporters.... The word supporter means “that which supports or upholds; a sustainer; a comforter; a maintainer; a defender.”

(Quote from God's Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 17, 20-23.)
1. Why are we to make the advancement of our leader our most important goal of ministry? How can we help in the advancement of the leaders over us? How have you helped advance your leaders’ dreams? Have you seen your own dreams fulfilled even when you have focused on the dreams of those who are over you?

2. “Endless strength” sounds impossible. How does anyone gain this kind of strength? What is the source for strength of this nature? How can it be maintained?

3. Do you always have forward motion in your ministry? Do you always press and force your way onward in spite of circumstances and misunderstandings? Have you ever let harsh words or bad treatment cripple your forward progress? How can we “keep on keeping on” when we face tough situations?

4. What can make following orders immediately difficult for us? Do you remember any excuses people gave Jesus for not following Him immediately when He asked them to do so? (See Matthew 8.) What can hinder us from following orders correctly? Do you listen well so that you are sure to obtain all information necessary when your leader gives you a task? Do you ask the questions necessary to discover anything that you might not understand or that you might assume incorrectly?

5. Who are the chief supporters of your pastor? Do others see you as a person who upholds or sustains your leader? Do people easily recognize you as someone who defends and maintains what your pastor says? Consider asking some people to give you their feedback as to how well you are doing this.
Meditation

“The easy thing to do is quit, saying, ‘Well, no one around here appreciates me; I was rebuked and I know I was right in what I did.’ Do not give in to the flesh. Get in prayer and stay there until 1 Peter 2:20 has become a part of your very being.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 21–22)

Have you felt unappreciated in the area of ministry where you have served? Have you been rebuked unjustly? What have your reactions been? Repent from any sinful attitudes you have had toward those who maligned you, and ask the Lord to put 1 Peter 2:20 into your spirit for the next trial that will come.
For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad (Mark 4:22).
We are continuing to examine the function of one who is designated as an armorbearer. Let’s look at some of the different forms this service takes.

An armorbearer...

9. Must be an excellent communicator. Communication is more important than anything I know of in establishing a relationship with a leader. It is the only way to build trust between the pastor and his associates. This does not mean that you are to bother your pastor with every issue or decision that comes up; just that you should let him be aware of what is going on in the church and among the people....

10. Must have a disposition that will eagerly gain victories for his leader. ...David was a great warrior, but he declared that it wasn’t his boldness, assurance or strength that made him great; rather, it was God’s gentleness. This is the character trait that will gain victories for the leader and the one who serves him as armorbearer.

11. Armed with this attitude, you will represent your leader well and gain much favor. Always remember that as an associate or assistant, wherever you go and whatever you do, you represent your pastor. You do not want to do anything to bring a reproach to him or the church you both serve.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 17, 23-25.)
1. Why does an armorbearer need to communicate well? How well do you communicate? Do you find certain leaders to be easier to communicate with than others? Have you studied your current leader’s communication needs and then adapted in order to make your communication match those needs?

2. Do you know which issues to bring to your leader and which you are to solve or address yourself? If yes, make sure your leader agrees with your choices on both levels. If no, spend some time praying about the dividing line and ask help from your leader to determine what you are to bring to the table and what you should handle yourself.

3. What kind of a disposition easily gains victories for leaders? How does eagerness portray faith? How aggressive and eager are you to see victories come to your leader? Are you tenacious in prayer and service in order to see these achieved?

4. How does gentleness play a part in winning victories? What have you found gentleness to do for those who are antagonistic or upset about something? How does gentleness gain favor among those whom you speak to on behalf of your leader? How does it gain favor with your pastor or leader?

5. How well do you represent your leader to others in the ministry around you? How do you handle someone who has a problem with the pastor in some way? How do you handle someone who believes the pastor should pay more attention to him or her? How do you handle someone who has a legitimate issue with something the leader did wrong?
“I encourage you to trust God every day for a spirit of humility, meekness, forgiveness, purity and a clear conscience. These virtues will keep a guard around you, and then what an asset you will be to the ministry.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 26)

Using five cards or memo papers, write the name of one spirit on each paper. Choose a different character trait each day this week and pray that it is worked into your spirit.
DUTIES OF AN ARMORBearer—Part 4

Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it (Numbers 13:30).
The main function of one who is designated as an armor-bearer is that of service; he is to help and assist another. Let’s look at [the last form] this service takes.

An armor-bearer...

12. **Must have the ability to minister strength and courage to his leader.** In order to minister strength and courage, an armor-bearer must possess an endless fountain of these virtues himself. The word *courage* means “bravery; the ability to encounter difficulties and danger with firmness, boldness and valor.”…

13. …when the children of Israel were told to go into the Promised Land…(Numbers 13)…they sent twelve spies into the land who came back and reported on what they had seen there. Only two of the twelve had the courage to say, “Let’s go up and take it, for we are well able to do so.”…

Whenever God speaks to your Moses, then be like Joshua and Caleb, the two strong courageous spies. Stand up in faith and courage and go forth to take the land—no matter how big the task may be….

[But be on your guard—satan will try to deceive you. One deception] is the false idea that the pastor is more concerned with fulfilling his own personal vision than he is with meeting the needs of his associates and staff members….

Remember…the vision of the church you are called to serve is God’s vision, and if He did not think you could fit in with it, He would never have placed you in that ministry….

(Quote from *God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1*, Pages 17, 26-28.)
1. How endless is your fountain of strength and courage? Do you find that these two grow when you have met tests successfully and move forward? In what specific ways can you minister strength and courage to your leader?

2. Do you rally in the face of danger? Do you cower during difficulty? How can you be an armorbearer with firmness, boldness, and valor?

3. If you had been among the spies Moses sent out to Canaan, would you have been among the ten who became overwhelmed at the odds, or would you have stood with Joshua and Caleb? As you examine your answer honestly, what gives you courage to take on big tasks?

4. Has satan tried to deceive you as you serve the leader over you? In what ways can satan bring deception and temptation to those who are not in command? How can pride enter into these feelings? How are we able to overcome deception and temptation?

5. Is your pastor consumed with the vision God has given him for your church? Why is it easy for people to forget that the pastor didn’t personally create the vision or agenda he is following? If we recognize the Author of the vision, does it make it easier for us to allow the pastor to run toward it, even if he neglects other things to maintain his top priorities? Why or why not?
“Courage comes from faith in God. In order to minister the same assurance your pastor has, you must stay built up in the Word of God. This edification comes only by putting the Word first.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 27)

Think about how courage and faith are bound together. How does your time in the Word affect both? Let God speak to you about how your time in His Word affects your faith.
Function of an Armorbearer

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder... (1 Peter 5:5).
Let’s look at some other functions of the armorbearer in order to get a better understanding of the loyalty and attitude of heart which must be developed to fulfill this divine calling.

The true armorbearer:

• Awakens and arouses his leader, helping him to stand against all foes.
• Carries and handles his leader’s weapons resourcefully.
• Moves quickly alongside his leader through the thick of battle as a forceful escort who never falls behind.
• ...Keeps one eye on the leader at all times and the other eye trained on the enemy, anticipating the actions of both.

...a biblical armorbearer was much more than just a hired hand. An armorbearer was a person who undoubtedly spent many years, if not his entire life, in his officer’s service. Only in this manner could he come to know and understand his officer.

Servant, bodyguard, friend, companion, butler, cook and confidant are just some of the many roles the armorbearer filled in the life of his officer. His list of duties was interminable. The position of armorbearer is one which requires great honor, love, tolerance and watchfulness. Unquestioning obedience was absolutely necessary, although after a few years of service the faithful armorbearer probably did not need to be told what his officer thought, desired or required. He knew him as he knew himself.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 28-29, 31-32.)
1. Look at the four functions of an armorbearer listed. Though these are but a few of the functions, rate yourself in each area as to how well you perform as an armorbearer for your leader. Are these easy for you to do, or difficult? Are there presently some special challenges that you must overcome?

2. What is a “hired hand” mentality versus one that represents the attitude of an armorbearer? How does lifelong loyalty demonstrate the attitude of an armorbearer? In this world of changes and multiple options on every level of life, why would it be rare to see someone remain loyal to a leader for life? Why does it take a lifetime to really know someone who leads you?

3. How good of a servant are you to your leader? How would you know if you do well serving him? How do you rank as a bodyguard to your leader? What kinds of things might you do as a bodyguard, which would be appropriate in your position? Are you a friend to your leader? Do you hear and see things and keep them confidential?

4. The requirement of love toward a leader is measured by the standards of 1 Corinthians 13. Read this passage and soberly determine how well you love your leader. How do you honor your leader? Do you do so only when you think he “deserves” it?

5. Do you find that you must be told to do each task your leader needs done, or do you initiate service and can correctly assume what he or she desires? How well do you know how your leader thinks? How well do you know your leader's desires?
“Dedication and devotion unto death was the order of each day for the biblical armorbearer.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 32)

Consider what the words “dedication” and “devotion” mean to you. Has anyone ever been dedicated or devoted to you? What made you know that this person had this type of heart toward you? Have you ever been dedicated and devoted toward someone else? How did you demonstrate this devotion? Do you need to increase your dedication and devotion toward your current leader?
Armorbearers of the Old Testament

DRAW THY SWORD, AND THRUST ME THOUGH THEREWITH; LEST THESE UNCIRCUMCISED COME AND THRUST ME THROUGH, AND ABUSE ME. BUT HIS ARMOURBEARER WOULD NOT; FOR HE WAS SORE AFRAID...(1 SAMUEL 31:4).
A good example of the loyalty of an armorbearer is found in the story of the death of Abimelech. (Judges 9:45-55.)…

Even though Abimelech was wicked, the loyalty of his armorbearer is obvious. He was the closest person to the king when [a woman threw a stone which] struck him on the head. He was just as concerned about Abimelech’s tainted honor as Abimelech was himself. He did not want it said that his officer had been killed by a woman. His instant obedience is…recorded: “…And his young man thrust him through, and he died (v. 54).

[Another example is found in 1 Samuel 31.] …Saul’s army, realizing that defeat was imminent, turned to flee. His men, including his sons, were killed and Saul was wounded by arrows. [Through the fighting, Saul’s armorbearer had managed to stay alongside his leader.] Saul wanted to die at the hands of his armorbearer rather than be captured and tortured by the enemy. However, his armorbearer would not oblige him.…

This man had spent all his time in Saul’s service, caring for and protecting him. His entire reason for being was the preservation of the life of the king. If there was even the slightest chance that Saul could be saved from destruction, then he had to take that chance, regardless of the odds against its success.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 33-36.)
1. Reflect on Abimelech’s armorbearer. Perhaps a millstone would not be likely to fall on your leader; but physical, emotional, or spiritual “millstones” can be just as deadly. Would you know what to do if one fell on your leader? Would you be available to be obedient immediately when asked? Though you would not be asked to kill your leader, would you know how to keep his or her honor before others?

2. Considering Saul’s armorbearer, would you be able to stay by your leader’s side during a heavy battle? Your battle may be in the physical realm through sickness or in the emotional realm with trying relationships or situations. It may be in the spiritual realm with others in the Body of Christ. Take some time to pray for wisdom as to what your leader’s current battle is and how you can dodge the arrows and stay alive alongside him.

3. Knowing others have died in battle alongside your leader, would you be able to maintain your courage and continue through a long fight? If you see some of your leader’s assistants leave the ministry, do you think that some of them may have been wounded in the battle that persists? What might these wounds look like? How can you avoid the same wounds that others may have received?

4. Saul’s armorbearer saw hope in the midst of a situation where his leader saw no hope. What might you do if presented with the same situation? How might you encourage your leader to press through the final throes of a battle? How might you increase the odds in your leader’s favor?

5. As you look at the responses of the armorbearers, think about the position you currently are filling under your leader. Comparing the two armorbearers in this study, who do you relate to the most? Why?
“The armorbearer could be trusted to choose and select for his officer because he knew how his commander thought and what he liked and needed.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 35)

Do you feel pressure when asked to make choices and selections for your leader? Do you know how your leader thinks and what he or she likes? Do you know your leader’s needs? Take time to consider what you know and what you need to know.
Two Different Armorbearers

Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart (1 Samuel 14:7 NKJV).
In 1 Samuel 14:1-23 [we see the] relationship between Jonathan and his armorbearer. …

As they approached the enemy, Jonathan’s armorbearer knew his place. He was to come after Jonathan.

In verse 13 we see that it was the anointing upon Jonathan, the anointing of a leader, that caused the enemy to fall. The young armorbearer was diligent to follow along after his officer, destroying the enemy who had been knocked to the ground by God’s anointing upon his leader....

This is a classic example of the humility and diligence of a biblical armorbearer. He is one who wins victories and slays enemies while his leader gets the glory…one who trusts his officer, even in what may appear to be a whim…one who takes his place behind the man he serves, not striving to get out in front....

[Another example is David, whom Saul had made his armorbearer.] …In 1 Samuel 16:18 we see that [David] was described as:

1. Skillful in playing.
2. A mighty man of valor.
3. A man of war.
4. Prudent in speech.
5. Handsome in appearance.
6. One whom the Lord was with.

…Perhaps the fact that David had once been Saul’s armorbearer further explains his attitude when he later declared that he would not touch “the Lord’s anointed.” (1 Sam. 26:9.)

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 37, 39-40.)
1. Read 1 Samuel 14:1-23 and reflect on the relationship Jonathan had with his armorbearer. Make some notations as to how the armorbearer showed his loyalty, his submission, and his follow-up abilities. Do you possess these traits? What do you need to improve?

2. How easy is it for you to allow your leader to receive the glory, even though you might “do all the work”? Do you see your leader’s glory as one and the same with yours? Why or why not?

3. How easy is it for you to trust your leader? Do you ever see your leader do things that seem like whims to you? How do you respond to these circumstances? How does God expect us to respond?

4. Look at the list of six traits David possessed as Saul’s armorbearer. Do you see yourself ranking high in each of these? How is each one important regarding your role as armorbearer to your leader?

5. Just as David learned lessons while he was armorbearer that affected the rest of his life, what lessons have you learned? Are you able to transfer the character development tools that God has provided, to other areas of your life?
Meditation

“David was a true armorbearer, one who held no grudges but who faithfully and obediently withstood his captain’s harsh treatment. The result was his own eventual promotion to a place of high respect and honor.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 41)

Consider the harsh treatment Saul gave to David. Has your leader ever thrown “spears” at you? Have you ever been banished from ministry? Have you ever lost your job as armorbearer? Has any leader ever hunted you down and tried to kill you? How could David maintain his humility before Saul? How can you maintain yours with your leader?
DAY 10

The Ministry of Armorbearing

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time (1 Peter 5:6).
God has established a certain order of priorities. Both the armorbearer and the person he is serving should follow these priorities, if they are to live faithful Christian lives. In descending order of importance, these priorities are:

1. Relationship with God.
2. Relationship with spouse.
3. Relationship with children.
4. Employment or work.

One of the main differences between armorbearing in the Old Testament and in the New Testament is the fact that in Old Testament days the duty of an armorbearer was priority number one. In the New Testament, armorbearing is priority number four. This doesn’t mean that today’s armorbearer is to take less than necessary care of his responsibility. His position is a God-given one, and he must be a good steward of that duty. Although the physical roles may have changed, the attitude of the heart must be the same.

The position of armorbearer is not likely to be one to which God would call a person for only a short period of time; rather, it remains a position of devotion and heartfelt loyalty....

As armorbearers we must prove ourselves faithful where God has “planted” us. Let God exalt and promote you where you are. If you will be diligent, faithful, humble and motivated by the heart of a servant, you will find the principles of God’s Word working for you.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 43-45.)
1. How do you feel about the four priorities the author gives us? If you are a full-time employee at a secular position but serve as a volunteer armorbearer, does this change any priorities? How will your choices be affected when the responsibilities of any of these relationships conflict?

2. Do you think it is difficult to keep the attitude of heart that being an armorbearer demands when it is priority number four and not number one? What does it mean to be a good steward of the position of armorbearer? How is stewardship of the duties of armorbearer maintained?

3. What are some ways devotion toward someone is demonstrated? Consider your answer and determine if you are showing devotion to your leader in these ways. How is heartfelt loyalty demonstrated when times are good? How is it demonstrated when times are difficult?

4. How do we “prove ourselves faithful”? Who determines that we have proven ourselves? Our leader, our peers, those under our supervision, God, or...? When you give up using a gift that you have been graced with in order to serve a leader, how do God’s principles work on your behalf?

5. Where has God “planted” you? If He has planted you, will He change His mind and uproot you to somewhere else? How will you be able to tell if He does want to move you? At these times, will there always be negative circumstances, or will negative circumstances cloud one’s judgment in such times of decision?
“If a person feels that the only reason God has him where he is now is so he can be promoted to ‘something bigger and better,’ then it’s sad to say but that individual is operating in the world’s system. This type of individual says, ‘Whoever offers me the most money or authority gets my services.’ ”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 44)

Where do your ambitions lie? If you are an armorbearer, have you placed your service to your leader above your own personal desires? Are you walking with your leader for the long haul, or is this a temporary situation until something better comes along? What should your ambitions be?
Faithful Armorbearing

Be not forward [self-assertive and boastfully ambitious] in the presence of the King, and stand not in the place of great men; for better it is that it be said to you, Come up here, than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince whose eyes have seen you (Proverbs 25:6-7 AMP).
One day Jesus...told me that He was simply asking me to do the same thing He had done on the earth. Jesus fulfilled His Father’s desire, and not His own. He is not asking you and me to do anything He Himself has not already done....

...As an armorbearer, you have a called ministry to serve a general of God’s army. The Old Testament suggests a very close physical relationship between the officer and his armorbearer. This may be the case in the New Testament, but such a close personal relationship is not necessary to successfully carry out the responsibility of the armorbearer....I am not called to be my pastor’s best friend. We are friends, but that is not our primary relationship.

We should never assume a personal right to know or be a part of our officer’s family or private life....

...The armorbearer’s main purpose is to pull down satan’s strongholds for his pastor, church and city. Do not get your feelings hurt if you are not asked to have dinner with the pastor every Friday night. Your goal is not to get next to the pastor, but to get next to Jesus and to do battle in the Spirit.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 46-47, 49.)
1. Just as Jesus fulfilled His Father's desires, how has He shown us how to fulfill our leader's desires? Did Jesus ever struggle with what the Father wanted Him to do? How did Jesus maintain the strength to fulfill His Father's desires? How do you see Jesus' example bearing on your own position as armorbearer?

2. What do you think would characterize the relationship between an army officer and his armorbearer or military aide? How does this picture give you clues as to how you should conduct your relationship with your leader? What should the physical relationship be? Emotional relationship? Spiritual relationship?

3. Should armorbearers and their leaders ever be best friends? Why or why not? What kind of friendship should they have? What indicators would you find in a healthy relationship between a leader and his armorbearer?

4. What kind of relationship do you have with your leader? How is your friendship? Do you desire more? Do you ever find yourself wanting to become your leader's best friend? Have you ever found yourself invading your leader's private life in any way?

5. If our main purpose as armorbearers is to pull down satan's strongholds for our leader, the church and our city, how do we remain focused on this in the midst of busy activity and never-ending ministry challenges? If our goal is to get next to Jesus and not the pastor, how do we do this so that we can do battle in the Spirit?
“I want to encourage you to remain faithful, no matter what pressure you may be facing. I will honestly admit that there have been times when I have wanted to throw in the towel and say to God, ‘This is too hard; this is not fair.’”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 46)

Have you ever felt like this? What brings us to the place of despair? What can pull us out? Are there ways to prevent these times? Do you feel you are entitled to fairness at all times?
And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness (1 Corinthians 12:23).
In the Old Testament, the armorbearer's main function was directly related to combat. This has not changed at all between the Old and New Testaments. What has changed greatly is the type of combat in which the New Testament armorbearer is to engage as he serves his officer:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12)....

We can see that the most important part of the armorbearer's duties lies in the spirit realm. Armorbearing is a ministry of prayer, watchfulness, and intercession. ...All the physical tasks of an Old Testament armorbearer apply today, in the spirit....

A true armorbearer:

• Strives to keep his godly priorities in line.
• Resists seeking to know his leader after the flesh.
• Remains always humble, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, doing what is pleasing to Christ....
• Serves his leader well, expecting no reward from man, but knowing that Jesus will reward him one day for his efforts and loyalty.
• Aids his leader in spiritual combat.
• Ministers strength to his leader in the spirit.
• Helps his leader to stand against the wiles of the devil.
• Knows how to deal with spiritual forces.

(Quote from God's Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 50, 52.)
QUESTIONS

1. Compare and contrast the duties of armorbearer in the Old and New Testaments. How do the duties link? How do your tasks relate to the duties the Scriptures describe?

2. Explain what Ephesians 6:12 means to you. Have you wrestled with these? In what ways? Have you won all your wrestling matches?

3. If the armorbearer's most important duties lie in the spirit realm, what proportion of your time should be spent in spiritual things? How do you spend your time when comparing the physical demands of your service and the spiritual demands? What should you do to be sure you are ready for spiritual combat?

4. Define these according to your experience: prayer, watchfulness, intercession. Are you engaged in these activities on behalf of your leader and his or her dreams?

5. Look again at the duties of an armorbearer listed. How well do you perform these? If you are able to do so, have your leader rate you on these. Then pray over those that need to be increased.
“If anyone thinks that because he fills the position of pastor, prophet, apostle, evangelist or teacher he is better than the rest of the Body, then he had better prepare to be brought low, for that is pride, and destruction is waiting for him right around the corner. I trust that you never fall for that kind of deceptive thinking.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 51)

Have you had prideful thoughts because of your gifts or calling? Repent of these thoughts and ask the Lord to destroy any work of satan that will cause pride to rise within you.
AND I WILL COME DOWN AND TALK WITH THEE THERE: AND I WILL TAKE OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS UPON THEE, AND WILL PUT IT UPON THEM; AND THEY SHALL BEAR THE BURDEN OF THE PEOPLE WITH THEE, THAT THOU BEAR IT NOT THYSELF ALONE (NUMBERS 11:17).
God placed the vision in you. He birthed it in your spirit. ...The work God has begun will continue long after you—if you are willing to put yourself into other people, without fear of giving them the authority they need to help you. You can tell how good a leader is by the quality of people following after him....

Here [are two things] to do, when seeking [an armorbearer] for your own ministry:

1. **Pray for God's divinely-appointed people to come your way.** ...Ask God to send you quality people to carry your vision forward. ...You just need to petition Him, and start thanking Him for answering your prayer.

2. **Be willing to invest yourself in the lives of your helpers.** Some leaders wonder why they have problems with their staff. Many times the reason is because they have never invested themselves in their associates. ...the Lord spoke to Moses [in Numbers 11] about those who had been chosen to assist him in leading the children of Israel. ...Moses laid his hands on his associates, thus imparting the spirit to them. Where would we be today had Jesus not invested Himself in the disciples? ...The Lord has not called any of us to control the lives of other people, but to be an example to the flock.

(Quote from *God's Armorbearer, Volume 1*, Pages 56-58.)
1. Why do you think so many ministries die while there is a strong person in charge? Why are few ministries able to be passed down to others, whether they be passed down to family members or other associates? Do you feel fear can be at the root of many of these cases? What other issues might be involved?

2. What kinds of people are following you? Describe their quality in spirit and fruit. What kinds of people are following the leader above you? Also describe these people in terms of spirit and fruit. What conclusions might you draw from your evaluation?

3. We know we are to pray before selecting people to serve with us. But how can we be proactive in prayer when asking God to send us people who match the vision? Why are we to thank Him for answering our prayer before we see the answer come?

4. How willing are you to invest your life in those who serve with you? Are the leaders above you demonstrating their willingness to invest their lives in you and the others who serve them? What does this investment look like? What do you think the Lord expects the investment to be?

5. In Numbers 11, we see a spiritual investment that Moses made into his elders. How important is this type of investment? What other forms might spiritual investment take? What is the difference between controlling others and being an example to others?
Meditation

“Ask God to send you quality people to carry your vision forward. The people whom God sends you may be your own personal family, or they may not be. …The unity between a leader and his staff is in the spirit and not by blood.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 56)

Have you prayed for people to come alongside of you to carry your vision forward? Have you considered family members as well as those who might be “unlikely” but yet are bonded to the vision in spirit? Ask the Lord to reveal those who are to be with you in the ministry.
NOW after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ minister… (Joshua 1:1).
Joshua’s duty was to wait on Moses, to contribute to his success, and to serve him in everything that he did. Had Moses had an armor-bearer, it would have been Joshua because of their relationship.

Today apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers all across our land are crying out for a man like Joshua to come to their aid. But my question to them is: Are you willing to be a Moses to your Joshua?...

...Moses was willing to invest his anointing, and his whole life, into Joshua.

Here [are two things] to look for, and to do, when seeking a Joshua for your own ministry:

1. **Delegate authority.**...Do not be afraid to let [your associates] fully express their God-given creativity. Sometimes leaders live in fear that they are losing control because others are beginning to grasp the vision and “run with it.”...

2. **Look for the spirit of an armorbearer in people.** Here [are some] qualifications...:
   - Do they have a disciplined prayer life?
   - Are they faithful to the church?
   - Is their family intact?
   - Are they tithers?
   - Are you at ease in their presence?
   - Are they at ease in your presence?
   - Are they disciplined mentally and physically?
   - Do they submit to authority?

(Quote from *God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1*, Pages 55-56, 58-59.)
1. What are some of the characteristics you see in Joshua that allow you to sense the personal relationship between Moses and him? What types of duties did he have before leading the people of Israel into the Promised Land? What authority did Moses give him along the way? What can you learn from this team that can help you in your ministry?

2. What kind of investment do you think Moses made in Joshua? What were the risks? Do you think Joshua ever failed? How do you think Moses may have responded to Joshua’s failures? How do you think Joshua might have responded to Moses’ correction?

3. How easy is it for you to delegate authority? Then consider how easily your leader gives authority to you when you are to carry out his mission. Where is there room for growth on both of your parts?

4. What do you think the spirit of an armorbearer looks like in people? How can you tell if you are attracted to someone because of their natural abilities or appearance alone and not the spirit within them?

5. Look at the qualifications of an armorbearer listed. How do you rate in each one? How well do your associates rate? Do you see this list as an impartial way of procuring new recruits?
“If you are going to give anyone responsibility in any area, then be big enough to give him the authority he needs to carry out that responsibility…. What good is a general without an army to follow him?”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 58–59)

Do you see how leaders can disable their armies by maintaining tight control? Where do you need to enable your associates so that they can acquire new levels of authority?
Steps to Develop the Spirit of an Armorbearer

But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble (James 4:6).
Every child of God...needs to develop the character of an armorbearer. ...we need [more emphasis] on the development of the character of Christ. ...God’s power is hindered because of our lust for power, money and sex. These things are currently destroying ministries around the world.

[Following are] some steps...to develop the spirit of a true God-called armorbearer.

**Step 1. Free yourself from pride. *(James 4:6.)*

- Evidences are pride are: an independent spirit, failure to admit mistakes, lack of a teachable spirit, rebellious attitude toward those in authority, a proud countenance, a self-centered conversation, intolerance toward the mistakes of others, a bossy attitude.

**Step 2. Free yourself from anger. *(Prov. 16:32.)*

- Evidences of anger are: temper tantrums, angry reaction to supposed injustice, expressed frustration over unchangeable circumstances, complaining, extreme sensitivity and touchiness.

**Step 3. Free yourself from immorality. *(2 Cor. 7:1.)*

- Evidences of a spirit of impurity are: sensual conversation, reading impure materials, impure attitude and improper actions toward members of the opposite sex, desire to listen to sensual music, sensual dress or appearance, carnal curiosity.

**Step 4. Free yourself from bitterness. *(Heb. 12:15.)*

- Evidences of a spirit of bitterness are: sarcastic and critical talk, inability to trust people, frequent illness, self-pity, a sad countenance.

These are all areas in which we need to judge ourselves in order to break satan’s power in our life, to be pleasing to God, and to be the light of the world.

*(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 61-63.)*
1. If you were to describe the “character of an armorbearer,” what would it be? How have you developed these character traits? Do you sense the urgency that God is asking you to become even more like Christ than ever before?

2. Look at Step 1 and the traits that describe a person with pride. Do you resemble any of these...even in the least? Read James 4:6 to whet your appetite for freeing yourself from any pride that you currently possess.

3. Look at Step 2. You may not be visibly angry at the moment, but study the traits listed to see if there are hidden areas of anger in your life. Read Proverbs 16:32 and pray to be freed from any anger you still harbor.

4. Look at Step 3 and the traits that describe a person who is plagued with immorality. Many times we think immorality is expressed only through adultery or fornication. But looking at this list, determine if any of these traits have ever described or currently describe you. Then read 2 Corinthians 7:1 to prepare for God to purge you from this sin.

5. Look at Step 4. Bitterness and its traits are subtle but very manipulative and divisive. Do any of these describe you? Do you need to forgive anyone so that you can pull out the root of bitterness in your own life? Read Hebrews 12:15 and ask God to extend grace to you in this area.
“We are God’s armorbearers. We are to carry the shield for one another, joining our faith together. If we will do that, we will truly become God’s Great Army. We will go forth to conquer in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 63)

How well do you carry others’ shields in the army that you are a part of? Do others trust you to carry their shields? Do you see yourself as part of a unit that will conquer satan’s forces in the power of the Holy Spirit?
Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13).
We need each other in order to fulfill God's call on our lives. ...now is the time for us in the Church of Jesus Christ to come into “the unity of the faith.” (Eph. 4:13)...

For the first time in over forty years, there is some measure of freedom of religion in many areas of Eastern Europe. The Church must take advantage of the doors which have been so miraculously opened to the spread of the Gospel....

God is saying to the Church, “Here is your opportunity.”

Billy Graham was in Hungary during the month of August 1989, [preaching to over 120,000 people.] So many were saved, it was impossible to get literature to all of them individually, so it was...just thrown to the spiritually starved crowds. The ushers believed God that the literature would get to the ones who wanted and needed it most.

Can you see what God is doing in the earth? This move of the Holy Spirit is far greater than the charismatic movement. It’s greater than the Baptist church or the Assemblies of God, or any other single denomination or church group on earth. We Christians must link up together in a joint effort. We must come to understand our anointing, our authority, our assignment, and then begin to flow with each other and God’s Spirit.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 63-65.)
1. What do you think the author means when he says, “We need each other in order to fulfill God’s call on our lives”? Who do you need to fulfill God’s call on your life? Who needs you in order to fulfill their God-given call? How does God dovetail us together in order to accomplish His Kingdom purposes?

2. What does the “unity of the faith” look like? Do we have to believe the same doctrine? Do we have to have the same vision? What do we need in order to be unified?

3. What opportunities do you see that have opened up for the spread of the Gospel in the world? Are there new opportunities in your city or region? Do you have new acquaintances or relationships that are providing new opportunities for you personally? What part must you play in the labor of the white fields?

4. How would you describe the current move of the Holy Spirit on the earth today? What is the Holy Spirit trying to teach the Church in order to help her fulfill her mission? What is the Holy Spirit saying to your local church about her mission? What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you in order for you to fulfill your destiny?

5. Do you understand how your anointing fits in with others in your local church? Do you understand where your authority lies and how God wants you to exercise it for His Kingdom purposes? Do you comprehend your assignment on this earth and how God has prepared and equipped you to meet your destiny’s requirements?
“…God had impregnated my spirit with a dream, a vision. …I knew I was going to carry the Gospel to the nations. I didn’t have any idea how God was going to bring that vision to reality; I just knew that somehow He would.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 65)

Have you ever had a dream or vision that God put deep into your spirit? Did you know how He was going to accomplish the vision or were you, like the author, dependent upon the Lord to set up its accomplishment? Are there dreams and visions you still need to see fulfilled? Take time to ask the Lord to press you into position to receive the fulfillment of those dreams and visions.
But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the Lord, that we may inquire of the Lord by him? And one of the king of Israel’s servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah (2 Kings 3:11).
n order to develop the true spirit of an armorbearer, the first step is to understand our anointing. We have noted that an armorbearer is anointed to carry another man’s shield into battle. His call and duty is to lay down his life for someone else.

I believe that right now there are people who have been faithful to “pour water on the hands of their Elijah.” [See 2 Kings 3:11.] ...the anointing of God is coming upon them. God is raising up all kinds of people, and the ones He is looking for are those who have shown themselves to be loyal servants, anointed as armorbearers.

The Word of the Lord may be with you, as it was with Elisha, because God looks at the heart. He looked at Elisha’s heart, and the Word of the Lord was with him.

Every true believer has his own mantle of anointing. We do not need to covet another man’s mantle or anointing.

Elisha remained faithful to Elijah under all kinds of different circumstances. Historians tell us that Elisha served Elijah for about fifteen to twenty years. By this we know that Elisha heard everything that Elijah said, and saw everything he did, whether good or bad.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 66-67.)
1. How do we learn to “understand our anointing”? What are the terms of your anointing? If you could draw boundaries around the grace you have on your life, where would those boundaries of anointing be drawn?

2. Do you find that your own dreams and visions and the anointing you have on your life ever conflict with those of the leader you are called to serve? Should there ever be such a conflict in our lives? Why or why not?

3. How well do you “pour water on the hands” of your leader? Do you serve in a way that allows your anointing to be of use to your leader? Does your service to that person include whatever gifts you have and resources you have accumulated?

4. As God looks at your heart, describe what you think He sees in terms of your mantle of anointing. Are you a loyal Elisha?

5. Have circumstances ever affected how you serve your leader? Have you found difficulties or problems that bring your mantle of anointing to a low point? How should we rise above the circumstances and remain steady throughout our service? What does it take to operate in this manner?
“When King Ahab sent soldiers after Elijah, he was sitting on a hill. Elijah cried out to the captain of the guard… If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty… (2 Kings 1:10). The fire fell, and fifty men died, leaving fifty horses to go running back to town with empty saddles. How would you have responded if you had been Elijah’s associate at this time?”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 67)

Think about your response to this question. Would you have reacted out of pride? Would you have responded with worship? Honestly evaluate your response and allow it tell you something about your heart in terms of serving your leader.
Recognizing the Human Side of Leaders

A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter (Proverbs 11:13).
How do you respond when your leader reacts in fear, when you discover that he is human just as you are? ...Have you seen your leader fall? Have you seen him make a great mistake and even get into sin? What's your reaction? Are you ready to leave and find some other place of employment, or are you willing to help, support and see him restored? Here is where we really find out what we are made of. If there is a true attitude of repentance, a faithful man will stand with his leader. ...A true armorbearer knows how to control his tongue in public, but how to speak boldly in prayer. [See Proverbs 11:13.]

Elisha remained faithful to Elijah, and because of this faithfulness...Elisha could ask for a double portion of his anointing. (2 Kings 2:9.) ...When Elijah departed, Elisha was there to watch him being taken up into heaven.... Elijah's mantle fell from his shoulders at the feet of Elisha. It was then, at that time, that the anointing doubled.

In these last days, I expect to see a similar doubling, or even a tripling, of God's anointing upon His people. But it will come upon those who have been faithful to their Elijah. Whether you see your leader do great things, or make great mistakes, you must still remain faithful to him.

(Quote from God's Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 68-69.)
1. Have you ever seen your leader fearful? What might cause your leader to have fear in the future? How should you pray for him or her to guard against fear?

2. Has your leader fallen in any way? Have you ever seen your leader sin? How have you reacted to these times in the past? What does God want you to do? How can you be supportive of the person without supporting the sin?

3. Have you ever shared with others any weaknesses or peculiarities your leader has? How does this type of exposure show disloyalty and unfaithfulness? If you have shared “innocently” about your leader, for whatever reason, take time to repent and ask God to keep your tongue from doing so in the future.

4. Do you desire a double portion of your leader's anointing? Using Elisha's example, what must you do to position yourself for such an anointing? What fruit of the Spirit must be demonstrated in your life?

5. When your leader does great things, do you ever flatter him or build him up in a fleshly manner? Why is this as dangerous as pointing out their faults? How should you affirm your leader so he is built up in the spirit man with God’s grace rather than after the flesh which can bring pride?
“The ministry…requires an ability to work with other people without giving or taking offense. True armorbearing is the ability to see the human side of our leaders and still maintain respect for them.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 70)

Take time to evaluate how easily you take offense with others in general, and then specifically with your leader. Ask the Lord to break those chains of offense that hold you back from releasing others, and loose your heart to forgive and forget.
Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared; though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered (Hebrews 5:7-8).
in order to be true armorbearers, [we must come to understand] the right of divine authority. We must know, recognize and yield to God's authority in our lives. We have to pray daily, “Father, not my will, but Thine be done.” We have to be determined in our hearts to stay in God's will regardless of the cost or consequences.

When we look at Jesus, we might think that because He was the Son of God He had no problem at all fulfilling God's will for His life. Let's look at Hebrews 5:7-8 to see if this is true....

We see Jesus in “strong crying and tears” before the Father, yet choosing to remain in God's will for His life and praying to fulfill the divine call that was upon Him....

Several years ago the Lord said something to me that has helped me during hard times. He said: “Keep your eyes on the resurrection, and you can endure the cross.” The cross is not a burden; it’s the call of God on our lives. If it is God's will for you to stay in one place for the rest of your life in order to give yourself to and for someone else, then let God’s will be done.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 70-71.)
1. In your understanding, what is divine authority? Who has the right to claim divine authority? How does God give such authority? Is it difficult for you to respond to those having God’s authority or not?

2. How is God’s authority received when you like what He has to say? How about when you don’t like what He is directing you to do? How well do you submit your will to God’s will? Is it costly at times? What has obeying God’s will cost you personally?

3. How do you feel about the fact that Jesus wrestled with God’s plan for Him? Do you see that Jesus did not sin while He cried before the Father? What would have made it become sin? How did he gain the strength to fulfill His divine call? How should we gain the same kind of strength?

4. How can we see the resurrection through the crosses we bear? Is it easy to endure when we know pain is temporary? What if we don’t know how long the pain will last? What if we aren’t sure of the type of resurrection we will receive?

5. We are to give ourselves to God’s will. This means our trial may be a long one. Are you ready for the long haul if God would ask you to patiently endure beyond what you think is possible? How do we get the courage to submit our will to God’s authority when we see bleak years ahead? What do we need to rise above the circumstances and relationships that may deplete us of our strength to endure?
“Whatever it takes, whether you are happy or hurting, make a firm commitment in your heart to fulfill God’s plan for your life.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 71)

Have you made such a commitment? What does it take for you to push past happiness or hurt to commit to God’s plan? Take time to pray for God’s strength to commit to His will for your life.
Giving Birth to God’s Will

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God (Isaiah 40:3).
Spiritual birth takes place the same way that natural birth occurs. In order to bring forth in the spiritual realm, we have to get intimate with God. From that intimacy comes pregnancy. From pregnancy will eventually come travail, and then, finally, birth.

We must give birth to the fulfillment of God’s will in our lives. The fulfillment of our God-given vision will not drop down on us out of the sky. We must draw nigh to God, and then He will draw nigh to us. (James 4:8.)...

To become intimate with the Lord, we must seek Him with our whole heart.

Once we have developed an intimate relationship with God, we will get pregnant with a dream or a vision which has been planted in us by the Lord. Then we must take that vision...and begin to nurture it, causing it to grow and develop. [This] will lead to godly travail, without which there can be no birth. That travail is our intercession....

Intercession is like building a highway for the Lord. We have to do the work first, and then God will send His glory. If we will be patient and faithful, if we will follow the process of intimacy, pregnancy, travail and birth, we will see the fulfillment of our heavenly dream and vision.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 71-73.)
1. How intimate are you with the Lord? Do you draw nigh to Him easily? Do you crave His presence and commune with Him often? Does your intimacy show in what you do during your day? Does it transfer to your relationships?

2. What has God impregnated within you? What spiritual dreams and visions have you received from Him? How did you know they were from the Lord? What made you know that these dreams or visions were your burden and not the burden of another?

3. When someone is impregnated with a dream or vision from the Lord, what is needed to nurture and grow it? Why is there time needed to develop the vision in secret just as a baby is developed in secret inside the womb? How do we develop a vision to full term? What does it take to bring full growth to a vision or dream so the “time is ripe”?

4. Have you travailed for a dream or vision God has put inside of you? How does intercession become the work that travails a vision to birth? Is intercession an integral part of your life? Does your dream depend on your intercession?

5. Have you ever birthed a dream or vision the Lord has given to you? What did the birth look like? Can you compare it to a helpless, rather uncultured baby? What was the process you went through to be sure the birth came forth? Take time to praise God for the visions and dreams you have birthed.
“Some of the most miserable people in this world are women who are pregnant and overdue. Likewise, some of the most miserable Christians in the world are those who are “pregnant” with a vision from God, and yet have not been able to give birth to that vision.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 72)

Have you ever experienced the types of people described here? Have you ever resembled either one? What does a “spiritually overdue” person look like? What are his tendencies? If you are spiritually overdue in any vision God has planted within you, take time to ask the Lord to bring you into travail and birth.
Understanding Our Assignment and Appreciating Our Gifts

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him (1 Corinthians 12:18).
We need...to learn and understand our God-given assignment. The fulfillment of that assignment is dependent upon the proper use of the divine gifts which have been bestowed upon us....

We must know in our hearts that we had absolutely nothing to do with choosing the gifts that God has placed inside...us. He bestows gifts according to His will, and it is up to us to receive those gifts and allow the Lord to add to us more gifts “as He wills.” (1 Cor. 12:11.)...

As we are faithful in small things, God will make us rulers over many. (Matt. 25:21.) As we stay with the assignment and the gifts God has given each of us, He will bring our gift before great men....

Whether we are a pastor...or a layman, each of us has a flock. That flock belongs to us individually, and God expects us to tend it. David’s flock was his assignment from God, and he knew that, although he had been anointed to be king of Israel, his first priority right at the moment was to continue to tend to his first assignment....

When we set out to build the Kingdom, we must be sure God is one hundred percent in and behind what we are doing.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Pages 74-75, 77, 79.)
1. How does a person learn and understand his God-given assignment? Do you know of any tools that can help you discover the gifts and passions that God has given you? How well do you know your assignment? How well do those around you know their assignments? Are there ways you could help those who serve with you learn what God wants them to do for His Kingdom?

2. What is the “proper use of our divine gifts”? Is there a way we can use our gifts improperly? How does a person know if he is using his gifts in the way God desires? How are you using your gifts?

3. Why do you think people envy other people’s gifts instead of focusing on their own? Does anyone you know feel “entitled” to receive the gifts and anointing that they desire, even if God does not agree? How can we come into agreement with God’s choices for us and learn to love them?

4. How difficult is it for you to stay with an assignment that God has given you for the long haul? Are you easily distracted? Are you tempted to quit when things are challenging? Do you find yourself bored with the assignment? What might you do to correct these issues?

5. Who is in your little “flock”? In what ways do you tend for those in your flock? How do you treat your flock even when they do not seem to follow you well? Do you ever wish for a new flock? What does God want you to do to make your flock the best it possibly can be?
“The spirit of an armorbearer is the Spirit of Christ. This is the day we see that God’s children should take up the shields of others and be willing to carry them forth into battle. …The armorbearers of today will be the leaders of tomorrow.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 1, Page 79)

Do you believe the last sentence to be true? Have you seen armorbearers become leaders? Do they exemplify the Spirit of Christ? Do you?
As each of you has received a gift (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), employ it for one another as [benefits] good trustees of God’s many-sided grace—faithful stewards of the extremely diverse [powers and gifts granted to Christians by] unmerited favor (1 Peter 4:10 AMP).
The local church is the hub from which all ministry gifts are to function and the center out of which they are to flow. In the local church, you find what is needed to build the character of Christ in us. Each member of the Body of Christ should discover his or her gift and calling, and then become fully connected to a local church, submitting one to another and submitting to the God-called pastors and leaders there....

[There are] forty keys [in Volume 2] to producing longevity of service...where God has placed you. [Here are thirteen of those keys]:

1. You must have a call from God.
2. Make sure you have a real personal relationship with Christ.
3. Ask God to give you His vision, or goal for your life.
4. Be willing to do whatever is asked.
5. Do not lose sight of the people behind the work.
6. Be thankful for your position and never take it for granted.
7. Be willing to submit to authority.
8. Know that you are in God’s will.
9. Know that your rewards are laid up in Heaven.
10. Develop a servant’s heart.
11. Walk without offense.
12. Serve as if you were serving Jesus Himself, and do not get your eyes on the man under whom you work. On the other hand, be careful to respect the call that is on his life.
13. Be patient.

(Quote from *God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2*, Pages 11, 15.)
QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God has made the local church the hub from which all ministry gifts are to function? Why is the church the center out of which the gifts are to flow? What does the local church bring to a person that a traveling ministry cannot do?

2. How does the local church build the character of Christ into us? How does it challenge us in ways that bring us to our knees or reveal our sins? Have you found your local church a place where the flashlight shines on the weakness in your character?

3. What does being “fully connected” to the local church mean? How does the Sunday-only Christian miss out on this connection? Does it seem risky to get involved in ministry? Why or why not? What risks have you taken to be involved where you are?

4. Why does submission become a major stumbling block for people within the local church? Why is submission a prerequisite for using your gifts within a local body of believers? How do you know if you are in submission to others who are your peers? How do you know if you are submitting to the leaders over you?

5. Look at the thirteen keys to longevity listed. Rate yourself according to each one. Find and memorize Scriptures that support the ones that are most difficult to do.
“From the prophetic signs happening every day, it seems Jesus is soon to return. That is why I feel such an urgency about each member of the Body of Christ finding his place and remaining faithful, so we can be productive in God’s Kingdom. I believe this is the hour of the local church.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Page 11)

Do you understand the urgency that the author expresses here? What part do you think the local church plays in preparing the Bride to receive her Bridegroom?
Armorbearers Are Vital for Churches

For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church (1 Corinthians 4:17).
Pastors and leaders in the majority of churches have been bearing the brunt of the work of the ministry. That is why you hear of so many ministers “burning out.” Pastors and other spiritual leaders should be breaking through, not burning out. Spiritual and natural breakthroughs will happen as the Body of Christ decides to do its full part. 

God is calling for many Christians to become armorbearers for their leaders and for each other. We should begin to work as a team to advance God’s Kingdom in the earth. …

[There are] forty keys [in Volume 2] to producing longevity of service…where God has placed you. [Here are thirteen additional keys]:

14. Have a loyalty that goes beyond personal feelings.
15. Respect everyone.
16. Hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil.
17. Judge yourself.
18. Do not ever be too big to do the small things or too small to do the big things.
19. Commit to the ministry the way you ought to be committed to your marriage.
20. Know that you are important and needed.
21. Help other people fulfill their ministries.
22. Do everything you know to do to get where you want to be.
23. Do the very best wherever you are.
24. Stay with something until the job is done.
25. Never quit.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 13-16.)
1. Have you seen burnout in the lives of any pastors or leaders you know? Was the burnout caused by the lack of people bearing the ministry with them? How do you think the church can learn to bless the leaders by servicing, rather than giving some unwanted gift or favor?

2. If members of congregations do their part, how will spiritual leaders begin to see breakthroughs? Does this have to do with how much more time they will have at their disposal to pursue higher things? Does this have to do with energy and effort that can be expelled on a different level? Do you think the Church will see more breakthroughs when the local body does its part more effectively? In what ways?

3. How is the armorbearer to be a team player? What does a team bring to the table in a local church that solo saints cannot bring? How does the armorbearer spirit work for others in the same peer group?

4. How can the spirit of the armorbearer be spread among those in your circle of influence? What can you do to help those who serve under or around you to catch the spirit? What example must you set?

5. Look at the keys to longevity listed. Rate yourself according to each one. Find and memorize Scriptures that support the ones that are the most difficult to do.
“The local church is called to touch its community, town, or city for God. …What part are you to play? Where can you get involved? What resources do you have available? What opportunities lie before you? What do the leaders of your local church need from you? How many times have they asked for help, or how many times have you volunteered?”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 11-12)

Answer these questions specifically. Then spend time praying and listening for direction from the Lord for the next steps to take.
Successful Keys to Blooming Where You Are Planted

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7).
Take a look at what you have to offer your local church. You may feel that you have nothing to offer, but that is never true of anyone. Each born-again believer has something to offer that is unique. Each Christian has a call on his life which will become apparent once he is involved in a church…

…Each church has a vision that was given to the pastor by the Holy Spirit, and the pastor should take the time to share that vision with the church. Then members of the congregation should seek the Lord Jesus Christ to discover where each of them fits into that vision.

[There are] forty keys [in Volume 2] to producing longevity of service…where God has placed you. [Here are fourteen additional keys]:

27. Be a good follower as well as a good leader.
28. Maintain your joy in the Lord.
29. Always remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit.
30. Always obey God’s specific instructions.
31. Be patient with one another.
32. Always walk in love.
33. Be willing to change direction.
34. Know that God is your Source.
35. Use all the abilities that God has given you.
36. Have a healthy perspective of yourself.
37. Always keep the overall vision of the church before you.
38. Maintain a good attitude.
39. Trust in God’s grace and His anointing on your life.
40. Be big enough to be rebuked and corrected.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 12, 16-17.)
1. Make a list of your gifts and resources you can offer to your local church. Make the list without reservation as to how your church might use these gifts. How should you pray to see what you should do first?

2. What do you think is unique about you, which God can use to spread His Kingdom? Is your uniqueness something that the church can use to benefit its vision? How can you offer this unique quality to your leadership?

3. Sometimes we must begin working with the gifts we have and then we will discover our calling along the way. Do you know anyone who has experienced this process of discovery? Why do acts of obedience place us in positions where God can speak clearly to us? How does the affirmation of man and observation of anointing work into this discovery?

4. What do you see in your immediate future in regards to your local church? What do you see in the next five years? Ten years? Describe where you want to be and what you want to be doing in five years and then in ten years. Be sure you seek God's heart for these answers.

5. Look at the keys of longevity listed. Rate yourself according to each one. Find and memorize Scriptures that support the ones that are the most difficult to do.
MEDITATION

“…there are no more excuses. You have a talent that your pastor and your local church need, to help reach your city. Each church has a vision that was given to the pastor by the Holy Spirit…. Opportunities [to fit into that vision are] available, [but] require people willing to release their talents.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 12-13)

Have you ever given excuses as to why you should not use your talents for your local church?

Have you heard excuses from others?

Pray about what you and others are to do to make the vision of your church successful.
WHO HATH SAVED US, AND CALLED US WITH AN HOLY CALLING, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE, WHICH WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN (2 TIMOTHY 1:9).
In God’s hands, we are “seed,” and the world is His field. He wants to put our lives in His hands and let Him plant us into the world. God determined the type of seed you are and where you were to be planted.

...[God] planned our lives before the world was created. Now, He wants to plant each of us so we can begin to bloom and bring forth fruit in season....

God has a purpose in life for you to fulfill. You are not here by accident. You have a destiny in God to fulfill. You must find out your purpose by seeking God. Then, you become the deciding factor in fulfilling that purpose....

...God did not ask your opinion when He planned you and made you. It was all up to Him....

No matter what position you hold, you are there to produce for the Kingdom of God and bring the lost into the saving knowledge of Jesus. We must realize that we were called before we met our families, our spouses, or anyone else in our lives. And we must, at the Judgment, give account to God for what we did with that purpose and calling.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 19, 21-23.)
1. How easy is it for you to put your life in God’s hands? As the Master Sower desires to plant you, do you see what kind of seed you are? Do you see the season of planting He has determined for your gifts? Do you understand where He has planted you and why?

2. How well are you blooming where you currently are planted? Do you see yourself as one who is flourishing or one who is merely getting by? How healthy are your roots? How rich is your fruit?

3. Do you sense God’s purpose in your life? Do you see the great plan He has for you and that you are not an accident? Do you believe that your gifts were not given by chance or lottery and that God put each one inside of you for His purpose? How are you the deciding factor in fulfilling your purpose? What does it take to fulfill the purposes of God?

4. Why do many of us feel we are entitled to choose our gifts and calling? Where does this sense of entitlement come from? What should we do for ourselves and others who are serving around us to rid ourselves of feelings of rights or entitlement in the things of God? How will clearing ourselves of this type of mentality free us to be all we can be in God?

5. Why do you think God placed in you in this time period in history? Why do you think God decided you were to have the family you have? Why do you believe He matched you with your spouse and children—if you have them? Why do you think He has put you in your specific career? What about your local church?
Meditation

“God wants His children to grow up and be like trees planted by rivers of water. (Ps. 1:3.) Have you ever noticed something peculiar about a tree? **It never moves!** …If a tree is continually uprooted and replanted, eventually the roots will die. Many Christians have experienced this.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Page 20)

Have you ever been uprooted and moved? Since most of us have changed churches at least a few times in our lives, ask the Lord to show you any hidden rebellion, any offense, any sin, or any lack of submission that may have entered into a decision to change churches. Repent and forgive as the Lord leads you.
Keys to Longevity—Those Who Seek God Will Follow a Vision

ONE THING HAVE I DESIRED OF THE LORD, THAT WILL I SEEK AFTER; THAT I MAY DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, TO BEHOLD THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD, AND TO INQUIRE IN HIS TEMPLE (PSALM 27:4).
We get God’s plan, will, and direction by establishing a habit of prayer and study of the Word. ... The key to our being able to walk in victory is to cry out, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

You will have many opportunities to quit the position you hold. ... the strength to stand, strength to go on, and strength to resist satan only comes in prayer. In our quiet times with God, He gives peace and strength.

We must develop a heart that seeks after God....

The first calling for all of us is to worship and honor the Lord on a daily basis. Jesus prayed to the Father. He had a habit of prayer. That was the key to His anointing, wisdom, and longevity....

If you will go to your pastor or church leaders and begin to serve them, the vision God has for you will begin to come to pass. Be a blessing in your local church, and you will find doors opening up in all directions.

Everyone in some way must be connected with a local body under the leadership of a God-called pastor in the days to come. Many people move from one ministry to the next, based on what they think each has to offer them—never asking what God wants.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 25-28.)
1. Do you have a habit of prayer and study of the Word? Is it a daily event? Do you sense God growing you each and every time you read His Word? Do you sense God’s presence each time you pray? Are you on a track that keeps growing you and your gifts in order to fulfill your calling?

2. Have you ever felt like quitting? Have things in ministry ever become “too hard” to take? What should we do when challenges arise? How prepared are you for the next challenge so you won’t fold and run?

3. What is a “heart that seeks after God”? What are its characteristics? Do you have that kind of heart? How is it developed? What might you do to increase the fervor you have for seeking Him?

4. Have you ever asked your pastor or leader to give you insight as to how to serve them best? Have you allowed them to express what they see in you rather than what you see yourself? Find an opportunity this week to ask, and listen to what they say.

5. Why do you think God has you planted where you are right now? What does your local church offer in terms of challenging your character? How does your position in ministry purify your gifts? How do those around you sharpen you to make you a better Christian?
“…you too will stand before [Jesus] and [give an account of what you did with the gifts and calling on your life]. That is why our callings are so important and why we must endure hardships if they come while fulfilling them. We must be determined to have God’s will in our lives no matter the cost.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Page 23)

If you were to stand today to give an account of how you used your gifts and how you fulfilled your calling, what would you say? What have you accomplished thus far that is eternal in its impact?
BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT TRUSTETH IN THE LORD, AND WHOSE HOPE THE LORD IS.
FOR HE SHALL BE AS A TREE PLANTED BY THE WATERS, AND THAT SPREADETH OUT HER ROOTS BY THE RIVER, AND SHALL NOT SEE WHEN HEAT COMETH, BUT HER LEAF SHALL BE GREEN; AND SHALL NOT BE CAREFUL IN THE YEAR OF DROUGHT, NEITHER SHALL CEASE FROM YIELDING FRUIT (JEREMIAH 17:7-8).
Knowing that you are in the ministry that God intends for you is yet another key to longevity.

...The will of God is to stay planted where God has you until He says to move.

This leads to another key to longevity, which is making God your complete Source.

You must have a revelation in your heart that your church is not your source, your pastor is not your source, and your salary is not your source. Every Christian will face times when it is necessary to find out who to trust: God or man. If you lean toward man, then man will be the limit of your supply.

I have known people who volunteered to help in a local church, working for no pay but doing it unto the Lord. Then, because of their faithfulness, they were placed on staff. Now they were getting paid but were expected to be on time and put in a full day’s work. Their attitudes began to be that the church owed them something. They felt they were worth more than they were paid, and the work demands were too much. They lost sight of Who they were working for and Who was their real Source.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 28, 30.)
1. How can you find out whether or not you are in the ministry that God intends for you? What steps can you take to receive assurance from God? Is there a place for you to ask the counsel of others to validate your call? Who are the people who would speak most honestly to you? (These may not be your best friends or closest peers in ministry.) Through prayer and the confirmation of others, revalidate your call to your present situation.

2. How reliant are you on God as your Source? Are there any areas where it is difficult for you to rely on Him? Evaluate the following areas and your ability to rely on God as your Source in each area: your salary, your friends, your ministry opportunities, your gifts finding expression, your leadership, your authority.

3. Have you faced situations where you had to decide whether to trust God or man? What did you do? Who did you eventually trust? How can we be prepared to trust God each and every time difficulties arise? How can we “practice” trust?

4. Have you ever felt limited by those in leadership? Is this indicative that you trusted them to promote you or your gifts? How can we overcome the desire to push ourselves forward and instead rely on our leaders to recognize our worth?

5. Have you ever seen volunteers become disgruntled employees as the author describes above? Have you ever become disgruntled yourself, feeling you were “unappreciated” for your worth? How can we check our hearts so we do not fall into this trap?
MEDITATION

“Using ministries as stepping stones is wrong, and that could be the reason you are not prospering in your call. …We must follow our hearts and not the offers. God holds the future, and the best future for you does not always hold what seems to be the best offer.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Page 28)

Have you or anyone you know used ministries as stepping stones for their own “call” or agenda? Do you possess this type of attitude now? Take time to let God search your heart and root out any hidden agendas you may have.
But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me (1 Corinthians 15:10).
You have a grace on your life and talents and abilities to do what God has called you to do....

...[God’s] grace is a humbling experience. When He takes your life, anoints you, and makes you into something you never thought you could be, that is His grace in operation....

Two...keys for longevity are trusting in God’s grace on your life and always obey God’s original instructions....

You also have talents in your life that will come forth as you trust God’s grace in the small things. We are what we are by His grace. If you always obey His original instructions, you will see things begin to work.

Many times, because of over-zealousness to do great things for God, we start getting off the course He has set for us. We want to dream big dreams, and then go after those dreams. The problem with that is...you wake up one day and find out it was not God’s dream but your own.

Following your own dream will lead to a dead-end street, usually with a lot of time and money wasted. You must stop and take a look at what God originally told you to do in the beginning. Go back to what He spoke to your heart. There is where you will find the peace of God and His prosperity.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 31-32.)
1. Have you found God’s grace to be a humbling experience? What does this mean? How does it work? How have you seen His grace in operation in your life?

2. What does it mean to “trust in God’s grace on your life”? Why is trust so important to our success in the Kingdom of God? How does trust put aside the sins of manipulation, covetousness, striving, stress, and impatience?

3. What were God’s original instructions to you as you sought His heart for your life? What did those original instructions have as the goal? What steps did God give you, or what promises did He make regarding the journey to that goal? Have you kept the original instructions in focus?

4. Have you ever dreamed a big dream that wasn’t God’s dream? What happens when we make our own destiny instead of finding God’s destiny for our lives? How does the pursuit of our own dreams lead to a dead-end street? Have you found this to be true in your own life?

5. We all desire peace and prosperity. Why do so many Christians look for these in outward demonstrations and not within themselves? How does focusing on our original purpose bring peace and prosperity to our lives? How can the rewards come within us? How can we see them around us?
MEDITATION

“If the Lord has told you to join a church and commit yourself there, then do exactly what He said. Determine to be the greatest blessing to your church that anyone ever has been. From there, God will direct you one step at a time, and you will not miss Him. We will not miss God, if we will learn to walk in the Spirit and stay with what God originally told us to do.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Page 32)

Take some time to consider what would be the greatest blessing you could ever leave to your church. How could you accomplish this? Pray for God to give you the obedience, trust, and peace necessary to leave a legacy.
Keys to Longevity—Patience and Flexibility

HAVING THEN GIFTS DIFFERING ACCORDING TO THE GRACE THAT IS GIVEN TO US, WHETHER PROPHECY, LET US PROPHESY ACCORDING TO THE PROPORTION OF FAITH; OR MINISTRY, LET US WAIT ON OUR MINISTERING… (ROMANS 12:6-7).
Patience is another key to longevity. Patience means “the suffering of afflictions, pain, toil, calamity, provocation or other evil with a calm, unfurled temper.” Patience also means enduring without murmuring or fretting. Or it is the act, or quality, of waiting long for justice or expected good without discontent.

As you...get connected to a local church, the opportunities to murmur, complain, and become impatient will be there. Most of these feelings usually are directed to those in authority over us. We feel that we have a call and a place, and our pastors are not letting our gifts come forth.

Along with patience, you must have flexibility. That means being willing to change. We must be careful not to get in a rut. A rut is simply an elongated grave.

The majority of people in the world prefer to be “secure,” which means keeping their own little “worlds” stable with little change. Because of this characteristic of human nature, we easily can get “tunnel vision” and miss the prompting of the Holy Spirit to make a change in our churches or in our lives.

Your life and ministry will stop dead in its tracks if you do not accept change. You will never accomplish what God has for you if you get comfortable.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 33-35.)
1. Look at the definition of the word *patience*. The list given (afflictions, pain, toil, calamity, provocation or other evil) has been part of every life at one time or another. Have you maintained a calm, unfurled temper when faced with each of these? Which seem to challenge you the most?

2. How much do you endure without murmuring? Do you find complaining easier with some people than with others? What can you do to rid yourself of murmuring? How often do you fret? Do you find yourself fretting more about certain difficulties than others? What does God desire from you in place of your fretful reactions?

3. Why do most of us think that justice should be meted out quickly? Why do we prescribe a timetable to God as to when He will avenge us? Do you find yourself discontented when you are falsely accused or misunderstood? What does God expect of us when these things happen to us?

4. How flexible are you? Do you easily flow when things change 10 percent, 50 percent, or 100 percent? Do you resist change because of the destabilizing effect it has on what you have built thus far? Do you find people who challenge your status quo irritating? How are we to receive change? What is God's expectation for us when change occurs?

5. Why is being comfortable in ministry wrong? Why does it show that we don't want to grow? What does the desire to remain comfortable reveal about our hearts? How can we desire to be uncomfortable?
“…a lot of problems come [because] we are not patient. We are not willing to endure hardships, and we always are looking for an opportunity to be personally exalted and promoted. The Bible says to wait on our ministering. God wants to develop His character in you first before He exalts your ministry. However, we usually like promotion first and character later.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Page 33)

Have you “waited on your ministering”? What has transpired in your life before God opened up ministry to you? Think about the lessons in character development He has given you.
Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2).
The first key to commitment is a loyalty and faithfulness that goes beyond all personal feelings. The dictionary defines loyalty as being “faithful to a prince or a superior, true to a plighted (vowed or sworn to) faith, duty, or love.” Faithfulness is defined as “firmly adhering to duty, loyal, true to one’s allegiance,” or as being “a faithful subject.”

Those definitions show the heart of an armorbearer. ... He is dependable and... can be trusted with difficult assignments. Loyalty and faithfulness, of course, are first to God and then to man....

Loyalty always is tested first where God is concerned. If you do not like something a superior asks you to do, you may think it is between you and him. But it is really between you and God.... Make changes in your attitude and in your obedience to God, and then doing what you are asked to do will not bother you....

Take a look at four characteristics of a faithful man:

1. A faithful man knows how to keep his mouth shut. (Prov. 11:13.)
2. A faithful man ministers strength to his pastor and church. (Prov. 13:17.)
3. A faithful man always will speak the truth. (Prov. 14:5.)
4. A faithful man is a humble man. (Prov. 20:6.)

(Quote from God's Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 37-38.)
1. How loyal are you to those who lead you? Do you find it easy or difficult to be loyal to them? Are there particular situations or circumstances that can make it more difficult? Do your leaders tell you they appreciate your loyalty? Do others readily see you as loyal to your pastor and church leaders?

2. Why is loyalty a “duty”? Does this mean it is not optional? How is loyalty built within us? What character tests help prove we are loyal? What fruit of the spirit are shown when we demonstrate loyalty?

3. How faithful are you to your leadership? Do you find faithfulness easy in the tasks that you like and more difficult in the tasks that are not as pleasing? Does faithfulness mean that you must complete tasks until they are done? Does it mean that you will work beyond what others might work, in order to faithfully serve your leader?

4. What does the word allegiance mean to you? How is being faithful a demonstration of allegiance? When we pledge our allegiance to another individual, what does this mean? What tests have you gone through to prove your allegiance?

5. Look at the four characteristics of a faithful man listed. Rate yourself according to each one. Pick the one that is most difficult for you, and ask someone to hold you accountable to grow in this area over the next month. In your journal, note the times that test this characteristic and how you pass or fail the test. Pray diligently for victory.
“No one works in or is a member of a perfect church. Nor are pastors perfect. It is hard to be faithful at times while working with imperfect people. On the other hand, if you examine your own life, you may find you are not as perfected as you think. But Jesus died on the cross for imperfect people, so we could all have divine life with Him. We are to give ourselves in the same way to bring people into the perfect Kingdom, which is God’s.”

(Is God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 38-39)

Is it easy for you to name the faults in the leaders of your local church? Do you find that you have many of the same faults you see in them? What kind of grace and mercy are you to bestow on those who lead you?
Keys to Commitment—Do Not Be Too Big or Too Small

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith (Romans 12:3).
Another key to commitment is: *Don’t ever be too big to do the small, but don’t ever be too small to do the big.*

...It is always God’s plan to exalt you, but you will find you will have to expand. [You may never have thought of doing something or even desire to do it], but God has a plan. Sometimes we can miss God because we see more responsibility, and we are afraid we cannot handle it.

Now, on the other hand, we cannot get to the place that we are too big to do the small. There is an attitude in some leaders because of who they are that excuses them to do whatever they want and say whatever they want. But the Bible is clear that they have a judge also.

There is a law that works for masters and servants alike—you reap what you sow. (Gal. 6:7.) Get lifted up by pride, and you are destined to fall. (Prov. 16:18.) If you are unteachable, you open the door to deception. ...Once we begin to think we are better than others, problems begin. Determine to keep a humble heart and think soberly about yourself, and God will exalt you.

(Quote from *God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2*, Pages 39-40.)
QUESTIONS

1. Do you know people who are afraid of success? Have you ever felt intimidated by an assignment a leader gave you? Do you believe that God can grace you for whatever task He desires? Imagine a task that would seem so big it would be unlikely that God would ask you to do it. Now imagine that your leader asks you to do that very task tomorrow. Do you have the faith to believe that God would make up for whatever lack of experience, education, or natural gift you possess?

2. Have you ever missed God and His will because of fear of not being able to handle a responsibility He has asked us to do? What makes people choose fear over faith? What kind of “God-image” do we need of ourselves to be able to do greater works that even Jesus did?

3. Have you seen leaders refuse to do small things? What are their excuses for not performing the tasks? Have you been acquainted with leaders who delegate things they do not want to do, instead of those things that God has truly selected to delegate? How can we avoid this pitfall?

4. Do others see you as someone who will do anything and everything for the vision of your leader? When you delegate to others, do they see you as someone who works alongside them instead of one who lords over them? Is your reputation one where people are glad to do the tasks you assign because they know you understand what it takes to do those tasks? In other words, have you done them yourself and appreciate the effort, time, and energy required?

5. How does a heart remain humble even when more authority is given to the person? How can we avoid the pitfalls of pride? How can we keep from being deceived with the notion of how good we are?
“Another key to commitment is committing to the ministry as you are committed to your marriage. ...you should approach the work for the Lord with the same fervency [as you have in your marriage]. ...It will require a total commitment to be faithful and do what you are called to do. The strongest key to having a successful marriage is communication."

(God's Armorbearer, Volume 2, Page 40)

If you are married, take time to recommit to your spouse. Determine any weak areas in communication you may have and schedule a time with your spouse to discuss how you can improve your side of the communication issues.
Keys to Commitment—Always Do Your Best

Doing your best is another key to commitment. A pastor is always concerned about whether his staff and his congregation feel about the church the way he does. The way you can minister peace to him, as an armorbearer, is to always do your best.

[Be sure to] stay with something until the job gets done. ...If you are working in any department in a church, and you are given a job to do—just do it! Then, make sure it is completely finished. Many times we want to start a new project before the last one is finished.

[Also,] never quit or give up. ...You will have many opportunities to quit. They present themselves often. It takes no effort to quit; that is the easy way out.

If you are truly committed to the church and pastor where God has sent you, then you will not quit when you face hard times. The reality is that you will face challenges in the growth of your church that will test your commitment, whether you are a member or a pastor.

God is preparing you for leadership. The key is to stay committed to God, your call, and the leaders set over you.

...The only way to succeed is never to quit.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 41-42.)
1. For many people, doing their best is risky, because they think other people will expect it all the time. Why is this stance unbiblical? How does it serve self and not God? How easy is it for you to give your best in all things?

2. When people look at the tasks you perform, do they realize that you are giving your best? Do you have a reputation for excellence? Talk to some people who are watching you doing your work, and ask for their opinions so that you can discover if you are emanating the spirit of an armorbearer.

3. We are to finish the tasks that we are assigned. Have you ever been tempted to put something aside and start a new project? How can we overcome such temptations and stick to the priorities that have been given to us by our leaders?

4. What tasks have you ever been involved with that made you want to give up or quit? Why did you feel this way? What kind of effort did you have to give to remain on the task and not quit? How can you help others around you keep going when they are discouraged and are looking for a way out of their ministry assignments?

5. What tests of commitment do most people experience in the church where you serve? Do you see patterns of character developing, due to the style of leadership or the vision the church has? What scriptural encouragement can you find that will help other armorbearers remain committed?
“You will have the privilege of dealing with pride, anger, bitterness, selfishness, and all the destructive things that are in human behavior. But, once you learn to deal with these, overcome them, and let God begin a work in you, then you will become more like Him.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Page 42)

As you have dealt with these destructive areas of human behavior, how has God helped you handle them? What has the Holy Spirit taught you so that you became more like Christ through the experiences?
DAY 33

Keys to Attitude—Willingness and Thankfulness

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
The first key to attitude is a willingness to do whatever you are asked. This is what leaders look for in people who desire to get involved. …You may not think you have the talent or ability to do whatever is asked, but you will set yourself to do it because you were asked.…

[People may refuse requests from leaders to help, saying], “I’m sorry, but that is not my ‘grace’ gift.”

That may [be] so, but [the leader] was asking for help—not a word from God. …[this] is the kind of attitude many people have in local churches, and that is why they are never used. …The greatest blessing…is when people come and say they are joining [the local] church and want to know where they can help. Those are the people who end up in leadership positions.…

[Another] key to having the right attitude is being thankful for your position and retaining your joy. We should always be thankful for the place in which God has put us. …You may want a change in your life and position, but that will only come when you learn to be thankful for where you are. We are not just to be thankful in good times, but even during difficult times.…

…The victory begins in thanksgiving.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 43-45.)
1. How important is attitude to someone’s employment at a business or in the service industry? Do people tend to be attracted to people with certain attitudes? What are some attractive attitudes? What are ones that repel people? What kind of attitude do you emulate?

2. How willing are you to do whatever is asked of you? How willing are you to go “outside the box” of your gifts and serve no matter what? Do you serve at these times grudgingly or heartily as unto the Lord?

3. Have you recently asked your leaders what you can do for them that may not be part of your usual set of tasks or expectations? Try doing this and see what responses they may give to you. Then do the tasks and expect God to shape your character into His likeness.

4. How thankful are you for your position of ministry? Do you daily thank God for His provision for you so that your gifts and talents have room to express themselves? Even if your position is not the “ideal” one you dream about, how can you maintain thankfulness?

5. How do we “retain joy”? What does it take to create a foundation of joy in our lives? How do you maintain joy when times are difficult? Do you see a victory ahead as you are thankful and express your gratefulness to the Lord even when things are difficult?
“[Another] key to the right attitude is never lose sight of the people behind the work. …You must not let what you do in the church turn into just another job. …If you get upset at all the work you have to do, then you need to judge your heart’s attitude. …All of that work is changing people’s eternal destiny, so it is worth it.”

(Lord’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 43–44)

Lethargy, apathy, and slothfulness are sins that show what kind of attitude? How can you keep zealous to do the work of the ministry over the long haul and not succumb to these sins? Can you see people’s faces as you perform the work of your ministry? Ask God to give you His heart toward these people on a daily basis.
Keys to Attitude—
A Servant’s Heart

BUT YE SHALL NOT BE SO; BUT HE THAT IS GREATEST AMONG YOU, LET HIM BE AS THE YOUNGER; AND HE THAT IS CHIEF, AS HE THAT DOETH SERVE (LUKE 22:26).
Another key to having a good attitude is having a servant’s heart. Jesus told the disciples that, in the Kingdom of God, those who are “chief” are those who serve. He told them that He was among them as One who served. (Luke 22:25-27.) Jesus had a true servant’s heart. Christians will never graduate from being servants.

...Elisha...began his ministry by acting as a servant for Elijah for a number of years. ...

As you learn to serve, the anointing of God will increase on your life to help others. David became king and had a great anointing, but he first experienced God while tending sheep. He was willing to give his life to protect his father’s sheep.

He watched that flock with a servant’s heart and a watchful eye. ...Because he passed the test of serving with the sheep, he was able to pass the test of Goliath when it came.

Now, what is your flock? Is it watching a group of toddlers every Sunday morning? Is it directing a choir, youth group, or children’s church? Are you involved in housecleaning, door greeting, or ushering?

Your flock, or area of responsibility, is your “proving ground.” If you function well as a servant, you will be promoted.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 47-48.)
1. Do you know people who have a servant’s heart? What do they do that makes you know this is the kind of attitude they possess? Do people look at you and see someone who has a servant’s heart? How do you demonstrate this attitude?

2. Because Jesus came as One to serve, what areas of service do you see Him perform that might have seemed “unexpected” by the disciples? In what ways did He serve that did not seem “appropriate” for the Son of God or even a great rabbi to do?

3. How does service increase anointing? Have you seen this principle work in your own life? Compare your experiences with Elisha or David. How have you learned through service?

4. Who is in your flock? How well do you serve them, or do you expect them to serve you as their leader or shepherd? Do they see you out-serving them in practical ways? What can you do to serve them to a greater degree?

5. What does God “prove” through our service? How does care of our flock allow Him to check our hearts and attitudes? Why does this put us in line for promotion? Have you been promoted after you served?
“[Another attitude of an armorbearer] is to serve as if you were serving Jesus. From the Word of God, you can see clearly that...we are to work as if we are working for Jesus. If you will get your eyes off your boss and strive to please God first, then you will please your boss. We must learn to see Jesus as our Eternal Employer.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 48–49)

Check your heart to see if your emotions about your ministry position are toward Jesus and His pleasure and not your leader’s compliments. Check your mind to see if you think more about how Jesus wants things done, rather than thinking about man’s desires. Pray for an attitude that will bring God His due.
Keys to Attitude—Understanding Authority

Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God (Colossians 3:22).
When you volunteer and are asked to do something, you need to remember that it is as if Jesus Himself asked you....

This leads us to the attitude of submitting to God’s delegated authority in our lives. Romans 13:1-2 says that authority is ordained of God and whoever resists authority is resisting God.

God established all authority in chains of command under Him. ...Heaven is run under a principle of authority: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, then the archangels, cherubs and seraphims, who are submitted to authority over them.

...All offices of authority are set up by God, and the authority rests on the office, not the man. We are to submit ourselves to the office, whether or not we like the man in the office. If he misuses his office, we can pray for him to change or pray him out....

...The only right we have not to submit to authority is when that authority directly violates the Word of God...because we have a higher authority.

But, let’s be real honest, that is not usually the case. Rebellion usually starts when you have to submit to the rules in your church nursery. That is where it begins.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 49-51.)
QUESTIONS

1. Looking at the authority structure God has set up on earth, how well do you receive His structure in government? How about on your job? In your church? Within your family? Where is it most difficult for you to submit right now? What do you need to overcome the challenge to submit to that authority?

2. Reflect on Jesus’ respect for authority. How did He show it with the leaders in His day? How did He show it to the Roman government? When did He supersede their authority? What can we learn from His example?

3. How does submitting yourself to the office, not the man, work? What measure of freedom does this give you? How does this concept hold you accountable for truly submitting to those you do not agree with or perhaps even to those you don’t hold in high regard?

4. Have you ever prayed for a leader and watched him or her change? Have you ever prayed someone out of an office because he was not benefiting the Kingdom of God by holding that position of authority? Why are we allowed to pray such prayers? Are we being selfish, or are we acting on God’s authority?

5. Think about those who work around you in the ministry. Have you seen seeds of rebellion anywhere? Have you helped to sow those seeds? We need to be careful to hold each other accountable not to harbor rebellion in our hearts. Knowing the principle of submission, how can you help those around you resolve their issues?
“Another type of authority which plays a major part in many local churches is: **That is the way we do it around here.** Wherever you go, you will be faced with this “authority.” And it does not matter whether you agree with the way things are done or not, you must submit if you know God wants you to be a part of that church or ministry.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Page 51)

Have you experienced this type of “authority”? How can we submit to this authority when we disagree with it? What is key to our attitude?
For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it (Matthew 8:9).
There are five structures of authority that we all must submit to:

1. *God and His Word* (1 John 2:3-4). …We must…fully submit to the laws.


3. *The church* (1 Timothy 5:17-18). …The Bible says that pastors are worthy of double honor.


The centurion who told Jesus to just “speak the word” and his servant would be healed understood authority. The centurion was a man in authority. He also was a man under authority. Jesus said He had not found anyone Israel with this kind of faith. Why did that Roman centurion have such faith? He understood authority. (Matt. 8:9.) He could tell that demons and disease were subject to the authority of Jesus.

...Authority is here to stay. We will never graduate from under authority. When we get to heaven, we will still submit to authority. Those who climb God’s ladder into spiritual authority and do exploits for Him are the ones who know how to submit and flow with authority. God will never exalt you into a greater place of authority until you learn how to submit to authority.

(Quote from *God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2*, Pages 51-54.)
1. Look at the five structures of authority listed. For each one, look up the Scripture reference. Ask the Lord to show you where you need to improve in each area.

2. How well do you demonstrate your understanding of authority within your family? Do you exercise control over yourself more than over others within your family? Do you easily submit when necessary? Do you show respect and honor for all persons within your family circle? Why is this important if you are going to minister in the church?

3. How well does your church show double honor to your pastor and the top leadership? Try writing notes of encouragement to them during the next week. Then try doing an act of service or kindness the following week. Make their comfort a priority without invading their territory in an uncomfortable manner.

4. How did the centurion show the connection between authority and faith? Do you have this kind of understanding of Jesus’ authority? Do you see your faith increase as you recognize the power and authority of the Lord?

5. What does it mean to “flow” with authority? Does this mean that authority is not a stagnant, compliant act, but an eager act of faith and obedience? How can we know the difference?
“[On our jobs, you need to] stop complaining and start praying. Then make sure you are on time and do a good job. They will be ministered to by your diligence. If you do this, God will more than likely open a door for you to share Christ with them.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Page 54)

Have you ever been employed by someone you wish would leave or change? Have you ever prayed and saw God work on your behalf? In the midst of a “bad” situation, how does diligence speak clearly to others? Ask the Lord to give you dogged determination to be diligent on your job no matter what happens.
DAY 37

Keys to Attitude—Reproof

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life (Proverbs 6:23).
The last key to maintaining a good attitude is being big enough to be rebuked and corrected. ...We will be reproved and corrected in life, because we are human and make mistakes. If you want to mature, you must remain teachable....

...if you are the one being rebuked, do not get your feelings hurt. Be big enough to take it and go on without holding a grudge and being defensive. It is very clear from the Word of God that a wise man will listen to correction, and judge himself. (Prov. 13:1.) A fool despises any instruction. (Prov. 12:15; 19:25.)

I must admit that I have met some fools in my life. They will not take any correction. Their shortcomings and problems were always someone else’s fault. They are always right. ... They will never fulfill God’s will, because they will not admit mistakes.

We are told in the Bible to judge ourselves and make corrections when we need to change. If you refuse to judge yourself, you will face judgment on the sin in which you live.

...it is very important today to have people around us to whom we are accountable, people who can speak into our lives....

...There is no growth without some pruning.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 54-56.)
1. Are rebuke and correction difficult for you to accept? Is it hard for you to admit mistakes? How are we to approach those who could help us see our blind spots and weaknesses? Do you have the capacity to go to them before they have to come to you?

2. How is maturity dependent upon a teachable spirit? How can you identify a teachable spirit in someone? What character traits do you see? Do you have those same character traits?

3. When you have had your feelings hurt due to a rebuke or correction, what did you do to process through the hurt? What steps should we take so we don’t carry a grudge or become defensive with that person?

4. Read the Proverbs listed and jot down anything the Lord brings forward into your spirit. Are you a wise man or woman? Are you able to listen with unemotional ears to correction as it is being offered?

5. How are we to judge ourselves in order to make corrections in our lives? Do we need to do this on a daily basis? What do you do in order to keep a sober estimation of yourself? What safeguards have you put into place so that you will not fall into pride?
“If you are one who is going to rebuke, then be wise enough to instruct and teach. [Without these, the] rebuke amounts to criticism and results in nothing but wounds and strife. God never assigned anyone to break a person’s spirit. We are always to rebuke with meekness and love and take the time to teach the person how to do right and what they have done wrong.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 54-55)

How well do you rebuke those in your circle of influence? Take a sober account of this before the Lord and ask forgiveness where necessary.
Keys to Teamwork—Walking Without Offense and Use Your Talents

And His Lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses (Matthew 18:34–35).
The first key [to teamwork] is walking without offense. The main reason why people leave churches is because they get offended. Instead of dealing with whatever was said or done, they harbor bitterness from offenses in their hearts and end up leaving their churches....

All they have to do to be free and remain free of that trap is to let go of hurts and wounds. God can heal and restore a person immediately if he will forgive offenses and repent of bitterness....

Anyone can take offense, get hurt, and walk out, but it takes a real man or woman of God to make it right. There is no biblical reason to hold a grudge or to live in resentment. And there is every reason not to....

The next key to teamwork is using all your talents and abilities. The church must function like a team, and in order to do so, the team needs your talents and abilities....

Jesus gave us gifts from God. We have no choice in the matter....

...each of us is only accountable for his own gifts and callings and not for someone else’s.

Matthew 25:19 tells us there will come a “reckoning day.”...

The Spirit of God is saying loud and clear that it is time for us to release our gifts.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 62-65.)
QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been offended by someone in the Body of Christ? When you get offended, what do you do about it? Do you quickly deal with it and let go of any hurts and wounds you have? Or does your mind play over and over the words or actions that brought the hurt? How can God keep us free from these encumbrances?

2. Why are offenses so counterproductive to a team? How can we maintain focus and solidarity of purpose when we are offended at others within that same team? How does bitterness grow out of these offenses and divide the team even further?

3. Do you know of someone on your team who is harboring offense at another person? Would you be willing to encourage your teammate to release the offense and make things right in their heart? Would you be willing to hold them accountable and pray through the process of restoration with them?

4. If you were to create a list of all your talents and abilities, what would it look like? Take time to write down things you have to offer due to natural abilities, talents God has given, grace gifts, experience, training, etc. Now look over your list and check those things you are currently using in ministry. Pray over these and ask the Lord to increase His grace on you for His glory. Then look at those things you are not currently using and ask the Lord to bring to your mind anything you should be using for His Kingdom at this time in your life.

5. What does it mean that we are not held accountable for someone else’s gifts and callings? Why would we think we might be responsible for them? Do you feel burdened when people who serve in ministry under your leadership are not using their talents and gifts?
“I believe you have talents lying dormant just waiting to be used. In the midst of being faithful where you are placed, begin to draw on the abilities in you. You have the Creator on the inside. Pray and trust Him for His complete will to be fulfilled in your life.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Page 63)

Do you believe, as the author does, that you have talents that are lying dormant? Do you know of some abilities and talents that you are not using currently? Do you think there may be more that you don’t even know about? How will God bring these forth in you?
Keys to Teamwork—You Are Important and Needed

For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked (1 Corinthians 12:24).
God never created anything to be a [throw-away]. In the world’s system, we place a great value on the things that are one of a kind. These are the items that are priceless. You must understand that God made you one of a kind, and you are a priceless gift to the Church.

When you take a close look at 1 Corinthians 12:12-25, you will see the importance of each part of the body. The Apostle Paul made a comparison of the physical body to the Body of Christ, and pointed out that the body has many members but all work as a team.

This is how the Body of Christ and the local churches should function. As you read those verses in which Paul points out that the eye cannot do without the hand, and vice versa, we can see that he is saying there should be no jealousy between “parts” of the Body....

...it was God who set the members in the Body as it pleased Him. God made each of us unique and gave us qualities that no others possess exactly as we do. Every Christian has something valuable to God and to the Body....

If you are going to fulfill your part in the Body, you must stop looking at your inabilities and start using your abilities.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 66-68.)
1. Have you been delivered from the mind-set that you are just an accident or have no real purpose? Do you know people who think they are “throw-aways,” even after they have received Jesus into their hearts? What does the Church need to do to minister life and a new mind-set to these people?

2. Do you recognize your uniqueness? What makes you unique to God in the physical realm? In the emotional realm? In the mental realm? In the spiritual realm? How does God want to use your uniqueness in the Church? Why, then, are you priceless to the work of your local church?

3. If you were to describe your ministry and function in the Body of Christ, according to Paul’s analogy of the physical body, what body part would you be? Why? What honor do you receive because of the part of the Body you are? Are you a hidden part or a visible part?

4. Knowing your uniqueness and what part of the Body you are, what kind of team members do you need to directly surround yourself with, so you can function properly? Do any of these people (parts of the Body) currently team with you? Are you missing anything? How might you find any missing parts?

5. How can we stay focused on our abilities and not our inabilities? Won’t this lead to pride? How does the fact that God has placed these gifts within us give us room to boast only of Him?
“Paul pointed out that even the uncomely, or unseen, parts of the body are as important as the others. There is nothing beautiful about a liver, for example. But you must realize that you cannot live without one. I believe the inward, or uncomely, parts of the body represent the ministry of helps. They are always in the background working, but you do not see them that much.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Page 67)

What ministries of a local church represent the ministry of helps? Do you think these ministries receive much appreciation because they are hidden? Pray about what you might do this week to honor those parts and to show them how important you believe they are.
Keys to Teamwork—Run With the Vision

And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common (Acts 4:32).
In Acts 4, we are told of the disciples being threatened for praying in Jesus’ name. They got together with the brethren and began to pray, and when they had prayed, the house where they were was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke God’s Word with boldness.

Acts 4:32 makes a very important point. The “multitude of them that believed” were all of one heart and one soul. …they were in agreement. That is the key to seeing a great shaking of the Holy Spirit in our churches and cities. We are all of one heart when we are born again, because we all belong to Jesus. But are we all “one soul”?

A corporate anointing came on them, because they were in unity. They all had the same vision: to take the Gospel to the world no matter the personal cost. They were determined to flow together, recognize the authority of the apostles, and follow what Jesus was saying through them.

What is the vision of your local church? What is God saying through your pastor? Take hold of that vision and begin to run with your pastor, heart and soul.

…We will stand victorious together because where one will put a thousand to flight, two will put ten thousand to flight.

(Quote from God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 68-69.)
1. Do you find it interesting that the disciples chose not to fear but obey God in the midst of their persecution and that the choice to obey put them in the position to receive boldness? Has God worked in opposites in your life as He did with the early disciples? Have you chosen to obey Him when it might have been easy to fall into temptation and then He gave you strength exactly opposite of that temptation? How does God strengthen us in this manner to do great exploits for Him?

2. Do you see your current team in ministry as of one heart and soul? Are you in agreement? Do you find this difficult or easy in the Body of Christ? How do we develop people who are of one heart with us? How can we become of one heart with our leader?

3. How does unity bring a corporate anointing on a group of people? Do we become unified because we bond in fellowship, or does God bond us to His vision? How does this bonding take place?

4. What is the vision of your local church? What things are on the pastor's heart to do? How much do you pray for these things in your devotional times and with the others in your team of ministry? How much is the vision in front of you and your teammates from week to week?

5. Does your team have the tenacity to see the church vision happen, no matter what the personal cost to them? Are they determined to flow together? Do they recognize the authority of the leadership? Do they follow what God says through the pastor?
“The last and final key to teamwork is to rest in God, and let Him lead you into the perfect plan for your life. …We should not lean on our own understanding. (Prov. 3:5,6.) God is the one who directs our paths. …Many are called but few are chosen. Stepping into that place of the chosen of God comes by prayer, faith, integrity, diligence, and excellence of ministry.”

(God’s Armorbearer, Volume 2, Pages 69, 72)

Think back over the course of your ministry… is it easy or difficult for you to rest in God and trust Him? How well do you let God direct your path? How will this allow you to step into His perfect will and become a great armorbearer?
Additional copies of this book and other book titles from DESTINY IMAGE are available at your local bookstore.

For a complete list of our titles, visit us at www.destinyimage.com
Send a request for a catalog to:

Destiny Image® Publishers, Inc.
P.O. Box 310
Shippensburg, PA 17257-0310

“Speaking to the Purposes of God for This Generation and for the Generations to Come”