The Power To Succeed Life-Sheet

The best way to practice and learn how to start living out God's way of life, is to take some issue we face and see if we can use it to teach us how to apply God's love to the situation. Some of our first practices should be on something that doesn't have a deadline or one that isn't close at hand. It needs to be an issue where it involves at least one other person plus yourself.

This Life-Sheet is just an example of how we might go about practicing God's love on a decision we need to make. It isn't the only way; and, it may not be the best way for you. We are just presenting it as one of many possible practice tools.

What is the issue you are needing to make a decision on? Just give it a title that will help you identify it in the future:

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Describe the solution you are trying to develop with this person or group:

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Pray and ask your heavenly Father how you can help yourself and the person or group come to decisions that contain the eight aspects of His love into your relationship with them:

Win/Win

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Win/win: If we look at some one or some group as our competition or our enemy, we are making our decisions on the basis of our society's philosophies. We are representing our self or our group and they are representing their needs and best interests. We and they are not working together to see how we, as a team, can create, establish, and maintain a relationship that helps us all be successful. We are both trying to see who can come out on top with the best deal. In this scenario, someone has to win and someone has to lose.

We have to be very aware of what we want and need; but, we also have to ask a lot of questions so we can find out what the other person or group needs. After we have fully established both party's or group's wants and needs, it is then a matter of trying to find out how to work them together. What can we both do to see to it that we all come out with the very best. It is based on us knowing everything that is at stake in the relationship. Write this down above.

Trust

Trust: When we go into any decision making time, planning session, brainstorming meeting, negotiations, or arguments, God has a solution that is incredibly wise, loving, mutually beneficial, and success generating. The problem we face is being willing and able to find out what that solution is. None of us start out being good at listening and recognizing God's solutions.

Our ability to hear and accept God's solution may be hindered by us wanting to be right, wanting to win, wanting to be the smartest, or wanting to get even. If God chooses to give His solution through our "opponent," we may see it as a great and mutually beneficial solution. But, we may resent the fact that they were the one who came up with it. We just need to pray and ask God to help us trust Him so much that we are able to accept His solution no matter how it comes. Write down any trust issues you see in your relationship with God.

Spirit To Spirit Communication

You are looking for feelings and ideas from the Holy Spirit that will help you come up with ways of developing win/win situations for all people involved. Ideas and feelings are "popping up" in your mind; feelings are flowing through your heart. Your job is to choose the ones that will help you reach the win/win goal. Write down ALL ideas and feelings; also write down why certain ones were rejected; we will look at the reason for this later.

If you are getting feelings of frustration, hopelessness, discouragement, or any other negative emotions, then those are to be rejected. If you are getting ideas that are selfish, competitive, misleading, or not completely win/win scenarios (the best for EVERYONE involved), then you haven't yet got the solution from the Holy Spirit. Keep praying and thinking WITH the Holy Spirit until that REAL solution comes into your mind. Don't forget to write them all down.

The Prayer Of Asking

It is now time for us to start applying the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. After that, it is time to apply the three keys to getting the answers to our needs, issues, and problems in Matthew 7:7-11. We can get to a place where we just can't seem to get the true win/win solution from the Holy Spirit; it can seem like the answer just won't come.

Sometimes the reason the solution isn't coming is because we forgot to ask our heavenly Father to give us the answer; we can be busy thinking and not praying. Other times it is a matter of us not forgiving someone. Sometimes it is a matter of some wall of self-protection, or some problem with selfishness. In other words, the solution can't come because there is a spiritual problem in us that is keeping it from being able to come into our heart or mind. We just need to drop the current issue for a while and see if there is something wrong in our relationship with God. Write down, above, all the personal, spiritual issues that have been blocking the solution.

The Love Of God

Even on our very best days, as a human, we will always be looking at life, circumstances, and relationships through eyes of selfishness. We are all biased in the way we see things; we start out as new and untrained Christians with only being able to **love** [our] **neighbor <u>as</u>** [our] **<u>self</u> (Mark 12:31).** And only being able to **do to others <u>what</u>** [we] **<u>would have them do to</u>** [us] **(Matthew 7:12).** If we are going to produce a TRUE win/win situation, we are going to have to be OPEN to solutions that are UNBIASED.

Our expectations and what we consider to be our bottom line of compromise with others may be somewhat biased. At this point, we may need to take our expectations and bottom line needs to God. We may need to see if maybe we are rejecting the Holy Spirit's solutions because we can't see things from a TRULY fair, just, and loving point of view. Win/win solutions cannot be produced through biased people. Pray and ask God to help you see this situation with a pure heart and mind. Write down any unrealistic expectations you had that were blocking the solution.

Loving Our Neighbor

We might finally get to the place where we are open, unbiased, and ready to hear God's solution. We might be ready to develop a win/win relationship with someone or some group of people. But, after WE FINALLY get to the place where WE are getting the answer, helping other people accept the same solution is a WHOLE OTHER MATTER. Helping others accept something that is totally fair, the best possible solution, a benefit for EVERYONE involved, and something that would bring great success for all, is a challenge all on its own.

Loving God is A LOT easier than loving our neighbor as our self. The thing we have to allow God to show us, ALL DURING the negotiations and the solving of the relationship, is how hard it was for us to get to this place:

- We had to do a lot of WANTING to get to this place.
- We had to do a lot of STUDYING before we finally understood what this place is like.
- We had to do a lot of PRAYING before we finally were willing and able to yield to this place.
- Jesus had to speak faith into us before we could BELIEVE we were able to get to this place.
- We have had to learn how to yield to the LOVE of God before we entered this place.
- And, we are having to now take FAITH-ACTION in order to live on the basis of this place.

We will have to allow God to give us a lot of patience, as we help our "neighbors" join us in developing win/win relationships; but, God has been very patient with us.

The Jesus-Life

From the very beginning of your struggle with coming up with a win/win solution to a relationship, you will need to document that struggle. Every idea you get that doesn't qualify as win/win will need to be written down. Why? Because you are going to hear these same suggestions from your "neighbor" or "neighbors."

The Bible makes it clear that all the biases, temptations to do wrong, bad, or evil, and the selfishness, and the human reasoning we get will be thought of by our "neighbors." They will think of them and accept them as a possible solution. As we get these possible solutions and then reject them, we need to write down what we thought and why we rejected it. This will help you lead your "neighbors" into a TRUE win/win situation.

Your life with Jesus will give you the power, knowledge, future knowledge (foreknowledge), understanding, and wisdom you need. It will help you to not only come up with the best possible solution for all involved, Jesus will help you present it to those who will listen to you. It is true that it will take a willingness from all who are involved. But, if all are willing, Jesus will help you help them join you in a win/win relationship. If they are not willing, then you will have avoid having a relationship with them as much as is possible. Write down everything you think of; if rejected, write the reason for why you rejected it down too.

Success In Life

You will need to write down the win/win rules, principles, points of agreement, and methods of implementing them. We all forget what we agreed to; we all misunderstand what it was we agreed to; we all change our mind about what we still agree to; and a whole bunch of other reasons why we need to get it down in writing. It can change by mutual agreement; it shouldn't be some legal document; it shouldn't be too complicated; and it must always be based on God's love.

People who aren't Christians can get involved in these solutions. It gives them a chance to see Jesus and Christianity at work. God will help them see things they have never seen before. It helps them with their misconceptions concerning what the world has taught them about Jesus and Christians.

People can be VERY frustrating; they can take you to the limits of your love from God. You can use this Life-Sheet to help you through the tough situations that arise after the win/win solution has been developed. After a while, you won't need it so much; you will be able to do a lot of it in your mind. But for now, it can help you get started living and demonstrating the love of God.