

# SEVEN STEPS TO TAKE WHEN CRITICIZED

## INTRODUCTION

One thing I am one hundred percent sure of is: when you start a mentoring ministry, you will be criticized. If you are \_\_\_\_\_ of criticism, you had better not start. It is very likely that you have already received criticism in the last two or three months, but that criticism is nothing compared to that which is to come.

The criticism you received in the past was only mild and you thought, “Well, OK, it is only a lady,” or “It is only a young brother. It will go away.” However, now you are really going to create something — a regional mentoring ministry. People will say, “What does it mean?” “What are you going to do?” “Who gave you authority?” Also people are often critical when you want to do missionary work or when you want to start a new church. That is why we want to give you this lecture, so that you will know what to do. It will provide information for a lifetime. You should review this lecture frequently so the principles will stay fresh in your mind .

## I. PASS THE “TRIAL” OF BITTER WATER — NUMBERS 5:11-31

### A. Thank God for the lesson He is going to teach you

In the book of Numbers a procedure is given for a woman who is falsely accused.

You begin by thanking God for the lesson He is going to teach you through criticism. “Hallelujah, here is something I have not learned yet.” God will teach you new things through the criticism you receive. You will become a better believer and a more fruitful worker. If you want to have lots of good fruit, you need to prune the trees. So you too will need to be \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, “*Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*”

### B. Criticism causes bystanders to step back, watch and wait

Let us look what Psalm 38:11 teaches us. “*My friends and companions avoid me because of my wounds; my neighbors stay far away.*” Expect this to happen. There will be a lot of people you wish you could go to for advice and help, and you discover they want to stand aside. They do not want to talk to you about these things.

### C. Bitterness on your part proves your critics are right

You must also remember that when you react with bitterness and anger, it proves that your critics are right. “*Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an \_\_\_\_\_ does not come to rest.*” (Proverbs 26:2)



### D. Bitterness will also defile you

It will defile your family and your \_\_\_\_\_. You must guard yourself against bitterness. The real answer is indeed praising God and giving thanks to God. In Hebrews 12:15 we read, “*See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*”

### E. There are rewards for passing this test

The rewards of passing this test include: cleansing, you will be cleaner afterwards; because of this process you will discover increased freedom and increased \_\_\_\_\_. “*If, however, the woman has not*

*defiled herself and is free from impurity, she will be cleared of guilt and will be able to have children.”* (Numbers 5:28) So we can expect our ministry to multiply.

## **F. It is no wonder that God says to rejoice when falsely accused**

It says, *“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”* (Matthew 5:12. NKJV) I remember one of my teachers feeling very discouraged because he had received a lot of criticism. I said, “Give me your hand.” I took his hand, lifted it up, and we did a dance in the hall. Be exceedingly glad, because people are accusing you falsely. Praise God, because it is not true. Hallelujah!

How do you feel when they accuse you correctly? You feel terrible, you cannot sleep, you cannot pray, you know you should go and ask for forgiveness. But when they accuse you falsely, “Please, come on, do it some more. It is no problem to me.”

## **II. TRACE CRITICISM TO ITS REAL SOURCE — PROVERB 14:15**

We read in Proverbs 14:15, *“A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.”*

### **A. Vocal critics are usually spokesmen for silent critics**

Vocal critics — people that loudly attack you.

They usually speak for someone else who is a \_\_\_\_\_ critic. How does that work? Let us say you have offended someone and he is upset with you. What is he going to do? Get angry at you? Probably not. He will think, “Well, I am a Christian and I shouldn’t be mad. Maybe I won’t say anything to him.” He probably would be a little careful about it. Now let us say you had done something bad to his wife. Now he really gets mad. “How dare you attack my wife like that. Why do you not say something about me? What is the matter with you?” Proverbs 16:28 says, *“A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.”*

### **B. You need the actual words from those who spoke them**

We tend to lose our temper and our control and become much angrier when we speak for someone else. So, what do you need to do?

You need to get the actual words from those who spoke them. Matthew 18:15 says, *“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you.”* So if somebody accuses you, then you need to find out \_\_\_\_\_ is doing the accusing. Then you need the courage to go to him and say, “Some people have come to me and told me I have offended you. I am sorry, and I want to talk about it.” Then he himself needs to talk about the things that are bothering him. That is very hard to do, but it is the right thing to do. If all of us did it, our churches would change. We would have a much higher spiritual standard in our churches. Maybe you are the ones to start doing this.

### **C. Now there are some things that you need to find out about this criticism**

\_\_\_\_\_ are they criticizing:

#### **1. Are they criticizing the message content?**

Perhaps some things you said were not scriptural, not according to the Bible.

#### **2. Maybe it was the message emphasis?**

What you said was OK, but the way you said it may not have been.

#### **3. Maybe it was delivery?**

Maybe you were supposed to stand nicely behind the pulpit and you did not do that. Maybe you raised your arms, maybe you did something else. And of all sins, maybe you smiled.

**4. *Maybe it is your \_\_\_\_\_?***

Like Abraham Bible. He went in the pulpit and he did not have a jacket on. There was panic on the platform. So very quickly, I got a jacket from somebody. But because the jacket did not fit I could not move my arms.

If you know what they are criticizing, then you can apologize. Then maybe you can change it. You say, "OK, you do not like this tie? It is not a big problem."

**5. *Are they criticizing the use of your time?***

Many people criticize leaders who begin late and end late. They feel these leaders are wasting the time of other people. They don't respect the people.

**6. *Maybe it is \_\_\_\_\_ involvement?***

Like some of the brothers were talking about selling things at the market. It is possible that there is something questionable, that the church does not agree with. And maybe it is not sinful, but because of the church standard you will say, "OK, I will not do it. I will not offend the weaker brother."

**7. *Maybe the fault is in your \_\_\_\_\_?***

You have a beautiful wife, but her mouth never stops moving. Maybe you have some children and somehow when they are in the church they get all the other children dirty and doing the wrong things.

**8. *Maybe it is your financial decisions?***

You have done this well and you have done that well, but every time, ha, ha, no money.

**9. *Maybe it is your leadership?***

You are a praying man, you can preach good, but it is just difficult for people to work under your leadership.

**10. *Maybe it is your attitude?***

Maybe someone has a question and you shrug your shoulders and gruffly say, "I do not know. I have nothing to say." Because your attitude is not, "Yes, please, let me help you. I am here to help you."

**11. *Maybe it is your counsel?***

I know of one man God saved in Kyiv, and he was married. His pastor found out it was his second marriage. The pastor said, "You must divorce your wife. You must find your first wife, and you must marry her." The former wife was a drunken woman living with several men. This pastor's church members came to me and said, "Mr. Bible, can you help? What do we do now?"

**12. *Maybe someone feels you are neglecting them?***

So you see, just because someone criticizes you does not mean they hate you. It may not be a big problem, but you need to find out what it is. Only then can you do something about it. God wants to use this criticism to do a deeper work in you. Therefore you need to do a self-analysis.

## **D. Learn the motivational gift of your critic if possible**

It is important. You need to discover what the motivational gift of your critic is, and you need to view the criticism through his \_\_\_\_\_. Let us say, Misha is going to teach his first lesson. At the end of his lesson his grandmother comes and says, "Oh Misha!" And she bursts out crying, "Praise God! I have been praying for you. It was so wonderful." Then three minutes later a seminary professor comes and says, "Misha, that point was not good. You forgot that point. It was not terrible but, it was pretty weak." And Misha goes out saying, "The professor is criticizing me." He needs to know the gift of the professor. Someone with a lot of experience looks at his presentation completely different from the way an inexperienced person does.

**1. *Maybe it is because she has the gift of being a server.***

So let us say you have just put on an end-of-year meal for some of your students. And somebody says to you, "It was terrible. The radishes were too big. The cucumbers were too small. The mushrooms had radiation." Perhaps the complainer's gift is cooking.

**2. *Maybe he has the gift of organizing.***

Maybe you have a pastors' conference. And somebody says, "That was interesting, but I think I could have done better."

So if you understand the gift of the person giving the criticism, you can learn something from it. It would be easy to say, "Well, I am sorry, I do not think I can do it as well as you can." And, "I did not know this was your specialty. I did not know this was your gift. Next time when I have to do this, please help me with it. I have many things to learn and I can see you know how to do these things. Would it be OK if I ask your help next time?" The criticism is finished right there because you \_\_\_\_\_ what went on. You did not become angry. You did not become bitter.

Here is a sample of a few gifts: Prophet, Server, Teacher, Exhorter, Giver, Ruler, Mercy, etc. There are of course many, many other gifts and you can extend this list on your own.

## E. You need to discern the motivations behind the criticism

We have John 7:24, *"Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."* Whenever you are criticized, you need to judge or evaluate the motivation of the person who does the criticizing. If you do not study that, you will do the same thing he is doing. Someone is criticizing Vanya, and Vanya says, "Yes, of course he would be criticizing me." Now Vanya is criticizing him. Then we really have a spiritual problem/battle.

### 1. **Begin by believing he has a desire to \_\_\_\_\_ you, your message, or your ministry.**

The Bible says, "Think no evil." So begin by thinking that his criticism does not come out of an evil heart, but that he simply thinks you could do better. That is what we find in John 7:24, *"Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."*



### 2. **If that does not work look for some hidden motives.**

Psalm 55:21, *"His speech is as smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart, his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords."*

### 3. **Maybe he has a desire to gain control.**

He would like to be the director of the new mentoring ministry.

### 4. **Maybe he is simply rejecting the truth because he wants to justify himself.**

Example: There are some people who simply told me, "We do not need to study the Bible. We never had to do this before." Others have told me, "I do not want another church in my city. We do not want competition. That is an American idea." They rejected the truth.

### 5. **Maybe they feel vengeance for personal \_\_\_\_\_.**

Perhaps you have offended them. Maybe you have not offended them intentionally. There is a provincial Bible institute, there is a stationary seminary, and there are other regional educational programs. You need to be very careful or you are going to offend these brothers. They love Jesus. They want to do the best they can for Jesus. So you need to be very careful, because maybe what you said sounds good to you and others, but to them it was like a slap in the face.

### 6. **Taking on the burden of being offended for someone else.**

There is also the matter of taking up offenses for others, for somebody else. So he feels sorry for this poor young boy who has been attacked unjustly. "He is such a quiet fellow. He is so humble. He would not do a fly any harm. But this attack is terrible. This is not right. So I am going to go and talk to the offender about it." I found myself doing this not too long ago. I was shaking a person up. Then I thought, "Why am I so angry about this? He did not offend me. He offended somebody else, and I am speaking for somebody else." So I said, "Whoa, Abraham, slow down, slow down. Not so gruff, not so rude and brutish."

## III. RESPOND QUICKLY AND WISELY TO YOUR CRITICS — JAMES 3:5

James 3:5 says, *"Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boast. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark."*

## A. You need to keep your church leadership and church family \_\_\_\_\_ and spiritually prepared. (Matthew 18:16)

That is why we did not want you to just talk about the mentoring ministry. You need to make a study of your needs in your province and discuss it with your provincial superintendent. You have to preach several times, and make advertisement about Local Church Based Leadership Training. You have to have a pastors' conference, so you can have contact with these church leaders, and ensure they are well informed and spiritually prepared.

When you are being criticized you need to do the same thing. It is better for you to stand up in church and say, "Brothers and sisters, would you pray for me. There are some brothers in another church that have really been criticizing me." Now they will \_\_\_\_\_ you. But if they hear about the criticism from somebody else they say, "I wonder why he did not say anything. Maybe they are right."

## B. We should \_\_\_\_\_ criticism with an approachable spirit

What should your reaction be? Do not immediately become offended. There is a good chance that you are not perfect. There is a good chance you have made a mistake. There is a good chance somebody else can do it better. So, just be open and accept it and say, "I wonder how you can help me? How this can improve my spirituality?" Proverbs 15:5 says, *"A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence."* And James 3:17 says, *"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."*



## C. Acknowledge any faults and ask for forgiveness

Just think of it for a moment.

It does not feel \_\_\_\_\_ to acknowledge a fault so you begin to say, "Yes, but," and explain the circumstances, and what you did not know. It is getting more and more difficult and uncomfortable.

But when you simply say, "Brother, I thank you. I need to think about it some more. I want to apologize to you, and I promise you I will pray about it, and trust that God will show me how to do it better." Which of these two demonstrations is easier? Satan will tell you the last one is much more difficult. But in reality the first one is much more difficult when you are fighting with it and you are squirming around.

*"So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man."* (Acts 24:16). And 1 Timothy 1:19 says, *"Holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith."*

## D. You need to deal swiftly and scripturally with a scorner and a reviler

With gossip and criticism you need to act \_\_\_\_\_. Buy a bus ticket and immediately go to the other city and confront that person. Try to solve it. Make sure you take your Bible with you, and deal with him scripturally. Say, "Brother, yes, I understand how you feel. I have struggled with some of these things too. In some ways you are right." Try to agree with him as much as you can. Ask him if you can talk to his pastor or church leaders if necessary, and that way it will be stopped very close to home. If you do not do this, everybody will hear about it: the Pentecostals, the Seven-Day Adventists, the unbelievers. And you will have to pick yourself up from the floor. Matthew 18:15-16 says, *"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'" If that fails the Bible says, "Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended."* (Proverbs 22:10). *"You must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is ...a slanderer. With such a man do not even eat."* (1 Corinthians 5:11).

In your notes there is a list of people who criticize, and a list of Bible verses on how to deal with them. I am not going to discuss each of these individual items, but they serve as very good illustrations. You should study them at home and find out in which category your critic falls.

1) \_\_\_\_\_ Teachers

- Unruly and vain talkers.
  - Deceivers, teaching improper subjects for money.
  - Rebuke sharply (Titus 1:10-13)
- 2) Railers and Revilers
- Maliciously defame, abuse, taunt, and vilify.
  - Put out of the fellowship and avoid them. (1 Corinthians 5:11).
- 3) Contentious older women
- False accusers. Creators of contention. Breeders of strife.
  - Have \_\_\_\_\_ appeal to them
  - Train older women for ministry with younger women (Titus 2:1-5).
- 4) Carnal young women
- Idle. Tattlers. Busybodies. Speaking things which they ought not to speak.
  - Require them to mind their own business at home.
  - Assign them to \_\_\_\_\_ older women for their training (1 Timothy 5:13-15)

So let us just review for a moment:

Number 1 — was passing the trials successfully.

Number 2 — was tracing the source of the criticism.

Number 3 — was respond quickly and wisely to your critics.

And now let us look at number 4.

## IV. KNOW THAT YOUR MESSAGE & CALLING ARE FROM GOD — GAL. 6:4

Galatians 6:4 tells us, *“Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else.”*

### A. You should review \_\_\_\_\_ to the present

What did God do in your life? How did He lead you to become a student of a course? How did He lead you to become a coach? What did the Holy Spirit do to stimulate you to come to a workshop for leadership training? *“Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.”* (Psalm 103:2)

### B. You should realize that God’s calling involves fiery trials

If you want to be successful for Jesus Christ you must go through fiery trials. So do not feel sorry for yourself. Do not consider it unusual — \_\_\_\_\_ it. And then when criticism comes and you can say, “Oh, there it is.” You do not have to say, “Oh, what happened?” You are prepared for it. You say, “Oh, there it is, what can we do about it? A, B, C, oh yes, D, that is what I need to do.” You are prepared for it.

*“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trail you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.”* (1 Peter 4:12). You can also read 2 Peter 2:1-10 at home.

### C. You need to realize that grace comes only through humbling

Many of us talk about God’s grace. Let me tell you something: grace is just like water, it always flows to the lowest place. God’s grace always flows to the lowest place. One man in the Bible said, “Dear God, I did this, I did that, I know you are very pleased with me, and I trust that you will give me your grace.” And then there

was another man, the Bible tells us, who did not dare so much as to lift up his eyes. He said weeping, "Oh, God!" And God's grace went to that man. To the man who was humble. And you need to realize that. To the one that is humble, the one that is the lowest, God pours out His grace, James 4:6. So, let the other person do the criticizing. You just simply be the humble one. And you let God's grace come to you.

#### D. You need to relate criticism to the testing of your work

So, know that when you are doing something for God, your work needs to be tested. God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ - your work. Satan wants to attack your work. People want to weigh up your work. It says we must weigh the spirits, evaluate the spirits. Is this from God or not? Is this good or not? So do not get upset immediately when somebody does not become excited about your work, or does not become excited about your plan, or does not become excited about the new mentoring ministry.

*"So if you think that you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" (1 Corinthians 10:12).*

#### E. Accept affliction as the deepening of your spiritual work

After affliction, if it is of God, He will give you a newer, deeper, richer, spiritual ministry because of that. *"It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees."* (Psalm 119:71).

This lecture is something you will need to \_\_\_\_\_ and read when you get home. Whenever you are being criticized, get these notes out and review them. I have had to do that a number of times in my life.

### V. ENCOURAGE YOUR HEART IN THE LORD — 1 SAMUEL 30:6

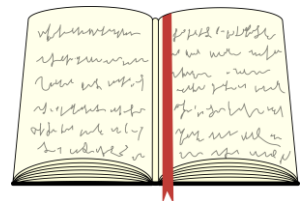
You need to encourage your heart in the Lord. There are several ways to do that. We read in 1 Samuel 30:6, *"David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him"*. They all had a rather unpleasant experience. *"Each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God."* David had several such experiences. I will list for you a number of Psalms you can use as references.

#### A. Personalize the Psalms; memorize or study the Psalms and Proverbs

If you read five Psalms every day you can read through the whole book in one month. If you read one chapter of Proverbs, you cover the whole book of Proverbs in a month. This was Billy Graham's system. (Psalm 1, Psalm 35, Psalm 41:9 and Psalm 55:12-17). Many people have been very blessed by regularly memorizing verses from Psalms and Proverbs.

#### B. Read First and Second Peter each evening

Read 1st and 2nd Peter each evening during the time you are receiving this criticism. The two main topics of the books of Peter are suffering and \_\_\_\_\_. So it will be good to read these verses in the evening before you go to bed.



#### C. Engraft Romans 6 and 8 into your soul

Memorize these chapters. James 1:21 says, *"Therefore, get rid of all immoral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you."* Put yourself to sleep every night quoting Romans 8.

## D. Read biographies of great Christians and triumphant devotionals to your family

We suggest reading biographies of great Christians, because all great Christians have gone through \_\_\_\_\_ or suffering of some sort or another.

So these are just some helps to encourage your heart in the Lord. *"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits"* (Psalms 103:2).

## VI. LOOK AT FEAR AS AN INVITATION TO DEFEAT — 2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Fear is an invitation to defeat. We read in 2 Timothy 1:7, *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* (NKJV).

### A. Having fears allows Satan to bring them to pass in your life

Fear of a man will prove to be a \_\_\_\_\_. *"What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me."* (Job 3:25). What did Job say? Job said, "The thing that I was afraid of — that happened to me." Job was afraid of certain things and they happened to him. Fear is lack of faith. It is lack of love for the Lord Jesus Christ. Fear means you have a hole somewhere in your spiritual armor through which Satan can attack you.

Proverbs 29:25 tells us, *"Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe."*

### B. In the Bible God warns us 450 times that we should not fear

### C. Learn to recognize your fears

Let us look at some of the particular fears that come into our lives:

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_

We have the fear of rejection, but just because the church leader rejects you does not mean you are not going to heaven. Just because he disagrees with you or he asks you to leave the church does not mean you are going to hell. Maybe there is another church or a better place to serve Jesus.

#### 2. **Many people fear the loss of their jobs**

Let me tell you, there is much more work in the world. If you want to work, you do not have to be afraid of losing your job. Only if you are lazy do you need to be afraid of losing your job.

#### 3. **Loss of reputation**

Oh boy, how many Christians are afraid to lose their \_\_\_\_\_. They have their own little halo and they are so afraid that somebody will say something bad about them.

#### 4. **Some people are afraid to fail**

One servant buried his talent in the ground, and said, "I knew you were a hard master, so I buried it." And what did the master say? "You stupid guy, why did you not put it in the bank? You failed." He was afraid to fail and he failed. The other people tried. He said, "I gained 5 more talents." And what did his boss say? "Why five, why did you not have six?" No, he did not say that. If you are going to do something for Jesus, you will always be \_\_\_\_\_. But if you are afraid you will always be a failure.

#### 5. **Fear of other people**



## D. Match each fear with a scriptural hope

Of course there are many other fears than those I have listed here. That is why you need to know your Bible. As a matter of fact that is why we have Bible courses. When you know your Bible you can match your fear with a \_\_\_\_\_ verse. And you say, "I feel like this, but the Bible says this so therefore, OK, I will go on."

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Loss of Job        | Psalm 71:24         |
| 2) Loss of Reputation | Hebrews 12:2        |
| 3) Failure            | 1 Corinthians 15:58 |
| 4) Rejection          | Psalms 27:10        |

## E. Conquer fear by mature love and God's Presence

The Bible clearly teaches us that fear is conquered by mature love. Perfect love casts out fear. *"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."* (1 John 4:18).

## VII. LET GOD CONFIRM YOUR MINISTRY — 1 PETER 5:10-11

*"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."* (1 Peter 5:10-11). You need to give God time.

### A. You need to watch Him work supernaturally through your deeper spiritual work

So do not \_\_\_\_\_. "Strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees." (Hebrews 12:12-13).

### B. Expect your good works to shame your critics

It takes time, it takes faith, it takes courage. Without these things it cannot happen. *"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."* (1 Peter 2:12).

### C. Review the challenge of 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

### D. \_\_\_\_\_ those who oppose God's word by not giving up

Because we have not given up, God has established a very large ministry in the Ukraine. I did not give up, the -Ukrainian leaders did not give up, a number of other people did not give up and now over 6,000 people are studying the Bible every week in the Ukraine. Over 3,000 people are studying the Bible in Russia already through the local church based leadership training ministry. So condemn those who oppose God's word by not giving up.

*"No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you."* (Isaiah 54:17). Hebrews 11:7 says that Noah, *"By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith."*

## CONCLUSION

1. Pass The "Trial" Of Bitter Water — Numbers 5:11-31

2. Trace Criticism to Its Real Source — Proverb 14:15
3. Respond \_\_\_\_\_ and Wisely To Your Critics — James 3:5
4. Know That Your Message & Calling Are From God — Gal. 6:4
5. Encourage Your Heart in the Lord — 1 Samuel 30:6
6. Look at Fear as an Invitation to Defeat — 2 Timothy 1:7
7. Let God Confirm Your Ministry — 1 Peter 5:10-11

So when you are criticized, take courage.

It is part of your learning process and a way for you to grow closer to God.

But the key is to handle it Biblically. God has a way.

The very best way is \_\_\_\_\_.

There is absolutely dynamite in Praise and we will deal with that in another lecture.

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

We are happy to present the video, audio and paper materials that have been prepared by **New Life for Churches**. You have the privilege *upon completion of your practical assignment* to use this lecture with others.

## *Practical assignment*

Completed

- Make five copies of the following checklist.

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Checklist for Handling Criticism

Step	Applicable	Not Applicable	How I Practiced This
Step 1: Pass the trial of bitter water (rejoice)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Step 2: Trace criticism to its real source	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Step 3: Respond quickly and wisely to your critics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Step 4: Know your message and calling are from God	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Step 5: Encourage your heart in the Lord	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Step 6: Look at fear as an invitation to defeat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Step 7: Let God confirm your ministry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

- During the next month when people criticize you, use one of these checklists to help you handle the situation in a godly manner. Be prepared to share them at the next meeting.

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## *Answer Key*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Afraid

- I.    A.    pruned  
      C.    undeserved curse  
      D.    church  
      E.    fruitfulness
- II.   A.    silent  
      B.    who  
      C.    what; appearance; outside; family; attitude  
      D.    gift; understand  
      E.    improve; offenses
- III.  A.    well informed; support  
      B.    welcome  
      C.    comfortable  
      D.    very quickly; divisive; elders; experienced
- IV.   A.    God's leading  
      B.    expect  
      D.    purify  
      E.    review
- V.    B.    holiness  
      D.    deep trials
- VI.   A.    snare  
      C.    rejection; halo; successful  
      D.    Bible
- VII.  A.    give up  
      D.    condemn

### **CONCLUSION**

Quickly; praise