

Kingdom Impact Life Approach™

Part 1



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Introduction

Are you a Christian that sees yourself going through the motions? Have you had those feelings like things are out of balance or something is off? Would you like a practical approach where you can roll up your sleeves and gain a better handle on your life? If any of these prompt you to say “hmmm”, this will be helpful for you!

Let’s face it, none of us set out to live an average life of just existing or surviving. No one sits back, lowers their voice, and says, “my plan is to have no plan”. Yet sometimes we wonder what the plan is, don’t we? Does anyone have a bucket list that includes “Forget what is important – just do the urgent” or “Learn how to be busy”? Ha, I don’t think so.

Other times we go after what we think will deliver happiness, similar to the wild account in the Bible of chasing every possible desire and dream, only to discover what the scriptures express: *Meaningless! Meaningless! says the teacher. Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless! What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?* (Ecclesiastes 12:13) Have you ever tried to drink in happiness and come up dry?

Another common occasion for many of us is when we have those times where we focus on getting our life in order. However, it seems like every time we feel one area is in good shape, we realize another area is out of balance. Then sometimes we get overwhelmed and don’t even know what to do next. Have you ever been frustrated in this way?

Some of us are still confused by trying to figure out “why am I here” and “where am I headed”. We know we have a purpose of sorts, but we often get sidetracked or forget. Many of us are not visionary people with a preferred “big picture” of our future. We wish we could see how the pieces of our life puzzle fit together, but it’s a struggle. Have you ever wanted more clarity?

There are approaches out there to help us with life. Unfortunately, many of them (1) do not come from a Christ-centered view, or (2) do not place enough value on how God uses the Biblical community of the local church, or (3) are more theory than practical.

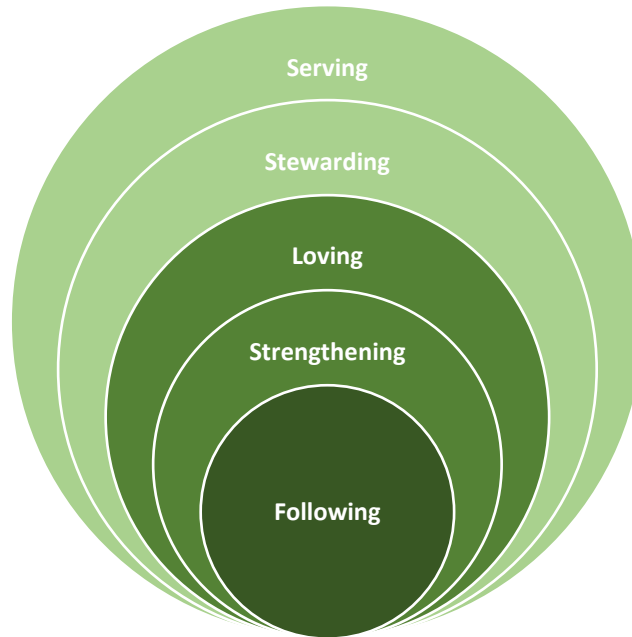
Can you relate? Are you lacking a solid plan, stuck doing the urgent, busy, chasing happiness, out of balance, missing a stronger purpose, or struggling to figure out the future?

Which of these do you relate to most? Why? Pray and respond.

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These are the very reasons why a kingdom impact life approach is needed. You desire to have a useful plan and thrive. You want to do what is truly important and be a contributor. You desire to live a focused and balanced life. One where you understand “why am I here” and “where am I headed” in light of who God is and the future He is leading you into.

It’s time for a new approach! Are you ready?



This approach is action oriented, so it’s important that you take the right steps, so you can apply it properly. It is prioritized on purpose so (1) the internal initiatives flow to the external initiatives, and (2) because your life initiatives at the center are most critical and impact the effectiveness of the other layers of initiatives.

For example, if you do not give proper attention to taking care of your health, it will likely negatively impact your effectiveness in loving, stewarding, and serving.

Only part of the plan is presented here, there’s more to come. First you need to prepare yourself so you’re ready to receive the full benefits.

Also, this will be more of a transforming process if you take the journey with a few other believers in your church family, maybe in your small group. Who do you know that may be willing to join you? Pray. Who is God bringing to your attention? Ask them to prayerfully consider it.

We all need to be good followers and good leaders. I’m sure you noticed that Following is at the core of the plan, so we will focus there first. The pace is up to you and your group – there’s no rush. Time to reflect and set goals is valuable.

When you’re ready, begin Step 1.

Step 1 – God’s Kingdom

As your mind and heart begin to engage in this process, listen to what the scriptures say about God’s kingdom: *Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.* (Psalm 145:13,11)

What is extraordinary about how God’s kingdom is described? Pray and respond.

God’s kingdom is remarkable! Now I know our answer to this next question should be obvious but go ahead and ask yourself the question out loud “Would I like to build my own kingdom or join God in building His?”. Think about it. Hearing the words coming out of your mouth and processing them is a lot more effective than being aware of them “bouncing” around in your head – so answer yourself out loud.

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. (1 Corinthians 2:9)

What would it be like for you to surrender the pursuit of your kingdom and commit to focus on the one God is making? Pray and respond.

Step 2 – Relationship

Now here is where many of us have a misguided perspective. We think that what most pleases God is what we do FOR Him. However, remember, first it's about relationship. Don't miss this!

In the end, when God's longings are fulfilled, what does it look like? You may be surprised, check this out:
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God". (Revelation 21:3)

So, in the end, when God's desires become reality, here's what is it – to be with you! Forever! Why? Not because of how great you are. *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.* (Romans 12:3) Then why? Is it because of what you can do for God? No, God is all powerful and does not need your help. Then why? The reason is because God created you, loves you, has a plan for you, and places a high value on your relationship – and the fact that your identity is this: You are a child of God!

Think about some of the most loving and closest relationships you have. They did not get that way by accident. How did that happen? What increased the love and closeness?

What would increase your love and closeness with God? Pray and respond.

Step 3 – Priorities

Reflecting on these two keys: joining God in building His kingdom and having a close relationship with God; it is always wise to prioritize what is important and then do that. Otherwise we do the next urgent thing that screams for our attention, without thinking a whole lot.

What does God say about our core priorities?

But seek first the kingdom of God. Matthew 6:33a

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30

In your own words, how would you describe our God-given priorities? Pray and respond.

Step 4 – Mission

The next step is the mission – an extension of the priorities. It explains why you exist – your purpose. Well, guess what? It's the same for all Christ-followers. Really, what is it? Read these passages

Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock (that Jesus is the Christ) I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ. Matthew 16:15-20

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld. John 20:19-23

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. {Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.} Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 including {Mark 16:15}

Who has the authority and how much? _____

As you and I are going, what are we to proclaim? _____

And what are we to make? _____

Okay, we understand the process, so then make disciple of...all...what? _____

Then an often-overlooked part comes...what are we to teach them? _____

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high. Luke 24:44-49

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

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When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. Acts 2:1-4

In these scriptures, God expresses the ultimate mission (often called the Great Commission) and where the power comes from to do it. So, let's get this straight, that means the mission and purpose of your life is this: share who Jesus is and what he has done, make disciples of Jesus Christ in all nations, and teach them to obey all that Jesus taught. Remember that Jesus is with you every step of the way. Pray. What is your response to what God saying to you through his Word?

Are you beginning to freak out? That's okay, this keeps us humble and dependent. No one can do this on their own anyway. Each person needs God to give them supernatural power through his Spirit to do the mission He entrusted to them.

Also, this is not a one-person responsibility and privilege. It will take all followers of Jesus working together. Let's break this mission down into smaller steps and begin to get a deeper grasp of it.

It's one thing to know what the mission is, BUT here are two crucial questions.

Question #1

In relation to you being a disciple of Jesus, what are some things Jesus taught, that you need to obey?

This is a foundational step in the approach so pray and then process through this. Jesus taught many things, so to help we will look at a few.

Each of us should aspire to have the character and attributes of Jesus, that he passed on to his disciples, and requires of leaders in his church. Here's the kicker...even if we don't ever think we will be a pastor, elder, deacon, or other leader in the church – we should still aspire to have the character and attributes. Read over these and let them sink in.

Therefore, an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 3:2-13

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:2-3

Also please read: Colossians 3; Titus 1:5-9

Considering these scriptures, what do you need to be taught? Who can you learn it from?

Question #2

What will it actually take to accomplish the Great Commission?

Hmmm. Intriguing question, huh? Stop and consider, did you ever seriously think it through? Jesus promises to be with us every step of the way, but what people, efforts, resources, initiatives, money, collaboration, etc. will it take to fulfill what Jesus gave us to do? Pray and respond.

This is an underlying step in the approach so take some time and map out your ideas. You may want to pray and talk about it with your family, church family, and friends. Be creative in how you express it, maybe you want to make bullet points, or under the bullet points draw a chart, or write a description.

Step 5 – Kingdom Vision

A vision is a clear picture of a preferred future. As we depend on God to stay on mission, where are we going? Where does all this lead? Some are content to just know their purpose, and that's okay, but even better to understand the long-term vision of the Creator for greater kingdom impact. So here's the first part of God's vision:

For you to be mature in Christ! See for yourself.

For building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...

Ephesians 4:12b-15

The summarized version is to grow into Christlikeness (in the ways that are possible, like in character, but not in being all powerful – you get the picture).

How does this challenge you personally? Pray and respond.

The second part of God's vision is this: For Jesus Christ to build His church! People – his family – the family of God – not buildings. Check it out!

Jesus Christ says: *I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* Matthew 16:18

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. Acts 2:41

And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:47

But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand. Acts 4:4

And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. Acts 5:14

So the church throughout all Judea and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied. Acts 9:31

But the word of God increased and multiplied. Acts 12:24

And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. Acts 13:49

So the churches were strengthened in the faith and they increased in numbers daily. Acts 16:5

So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily. Acts 19:20

When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made more disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Act 14:21-23

Jesus' disciples proclaimed the gospel in numerous locations and made many disciples. Then they taught the new disciples Jesus' ways, to obey them, and to have kingdom impact. The disciples in each location were gathered into a group in that location – a family of families – a local church. Elders were appointed in each local church to lead, love, and care for them. Then the whole process was repeated, and local churches continued to be multiplied.

Jesus' approach that the disciples are living out (proclaim, strengthen, appoint) has happened for thousands of years, and is happening all over the world. Now fast forward into our future.

Read this slow and let yourself imagine experiencing it: *After this I looked, and behold.....a great multitude.....that no one could number.....from every nation.....from all tribes and peoples and languages.....standing before the throne and before the Lamb.....clothed in white robes.....with palm branches in their hands.....and crying out with a loud voice....."Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"* Revelation 7:9-10

Do you have goosebumps?!? Picture the day when sinful people from all over the planet will be in their redeemed state, united, worshipping God at full volume! It will be glorious.

How is your heart toward helping Jesus build His church and seeing God's vision realized? Pray and respond.

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Step 6 – Personal Vision

Within the kingdom vision, God has a specific plan for your personal kingdom impact. When we looked at the mission, remember crucial Question #1 and #2: Well, your God-given personal vision is also an area where God can use these questions to give you direction.

Look back at the mission and how you mapped out your ideas. Consider the talents and gifts God has given you. Let yourself dream. How could God take how He wired you, and your abilities, and empower you to contribute to accomplishing His kingdom vision?

Don't think too small and come up with something you can do on your own – without God's power. Pray. You may want to experience www.KingdomImpactNow.com for inspiration and practical ways – specifically look at the kingdom work opportunities.

This is a vital step in the approach so talk with God about it. What personal convictions or aspirations, related to the kingdom vision, has God given you that requires you to trust God significantly for it to happen?

At this point, don't try to figure out how it would be accomplished. Focus on this: if nothing stood in the way, and God did the miraculous, what could the full-blown big picture of this vision look like for you personally?

If you have completed all 6 steps, then you finished part 1 – Congratulations! (If not, make sure you complete them before continuing.) Now you have the foundation for implementing the life plan. Remember, slow and steady – so just keep taking the next step as you have time.

Your next step is ready. Go to www.KingdomImpactNow.com/KingdomImpactLifeApproachPart2

About the Author

Placing myself in your shoes...you may be asking yourself “what is this author’s intent, and what is the message”? An excellent “begin with the end in mind” question a wise person like you would ask when investing your valuable time.

I’m an ordinary guy who wants to be used by God and bring Him glory. Hi, my name is Jeff Hostetter - born in 1968, raised in Lancaster PA, shorter than many, and with average intelligence. I was introduced to Jesus Christ through a local church when I was 8 years old. Thankfully God showed me my sinfulness, my need to repent and believe, and my need for a relationship with Him. That launched a meaningful journey of understanding what it means to be a child of God.



Diane, the beautiful love of my life and best friend, and I were married in 1990. We have been challenged ever since with a chronic muscle disorder that happened in Diane’s body around the time we began life together. There were significant challenges with having children, but by the grace of God, we were able to. Adam graduated college and Kelly is in high school, both kingdom-minded and living for Jesus. God has given Diane and I the privilege to join Him in building His church by being small group leaders and me being an elder. We also enjoy helping people reach their goals by coming alongside them as they follow a personal financial plan.

I’m an entrepreneur who started as a computer programmer when I was 16 and later became a software developer. I’ve had the difficult and rewarding experience to start multiple businesses, including www.Elexio.com church software. While at Elexio, God shifted me from software development, to sales and marketing, to being CEO for 7 years. We set aside 10% of our profit for giving toward kingdom work and developed a strategic alliance with www.Compassion.com. Compassion works 100% through the local church and our team sponsored 35 children in one church in Honduras! Each year I took some of our staff to meet the youth they sponsored. This developed a wonderful relationship with the families of the youth, the pastor of the church, and the Compassion staff.

In 2015 God transitioned me out of Elexio and made it clear that I was to be more involved in Honduras. I had no idea what that would look like – but God did! www.CreatingJobs.org, a group of kingdom-minded entrepreneurs, asked me to join them. Now I go to Central America every few months and help raise up the next generation of entrepreneurs with Compassion, World Vision, Church of God, World Relief, Serve Hope International, and other initiatives. Also, God led me to start another venture called Kingdom Impact and also be a co-owner with other kingdom-minded men in www.EagleBusinessSoftware.com.

People have told me I’m a kingdom builder. I really appreciate those kind words and strive to live up to them. You may ask “why are you so passionate about replicating kingdom builders? God wired me to be visionary and desire to be part of big initiatives. For years God has given me the privilege of hearing the vision of many Christian ministries and businesses. The kingdom-minded entrepreneurial part of me desires to understand how these organizations and their visions could be combined and then build bridges so they collaborate for greater kingdom impact!

My latest kingdom work is www.KingdomImpactNow.com – an initiative to help people use their talents to help fulfill the Great Commission and bring Christian organizations together. Don’t ever forget or doubt that a typical person like you and me can be used by God. To Him be the glory! I am praying and hoping that this approach and all these initiatives will lead you to remarkable kingdom impact!