

Gift Of Ideas

Br. Tom and Sr. Ruth Maillard

(Below is printed, with the kind permission of Tom and Ruth Maillard of Florida. Made up of “notes originally handwritten in a notebook over a period of time”—“a little way of sharing ourselves and our thoughts.” We were given a copy of these notes and were blessed by them; and thought the brethren on our mailing list would likewise be blessed.)

AS GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD - LIFE IS A STEWARDSHIP: — Our Talent, Our Treasure, Our Time — 1 Peter 4:10, “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

“To those who have come into personal relationship with the Lord and who are resting on His promises, there is a blessing, a refreshment, a strength, an encouragement, every time the precious things are touched, handled, mentioned.” (Reprint 5502-4.)

Sharing a little “Gift of Ideas” and praying for you the far more important gift of ideas—the ideas the Lord will bring to your mind as you seek them. “Receive...an idea from the Lord.” (1 Cor. 14:30, living Bible) God bless you with an idea-filled year...to your joy and praise.

I D E A S

- ++ Think how you can show god-like love in every situation.
- ++ Follow Bro. Russell’s suggestion for developing love. (Reprint 2205.)
- ++ Personalize the admonitions of scripture...I, me, my.
- ++ Personalize the promises...I, me, my.
- ++ Look for a new way of saying “thank you” to God each day and something new for which to praise Him.
- ++ Play kingdom.
- ++ Think of spiritual counterparts to earthly activities.
- ++ Put your worries in a “tickler file.”
- ++ Plant as seeds of thought only those things which you would like to see in the mature fruitage stage.
- ++ Remember... there are NO exceptions to Romans 8:28.
- ++ Make each day as much as possible what you would like your entire life to be.
- ++ Remember...“our eternal destiny will be decided by the way we now use our minds and the thoughts which we now accumulate.” (Reprints 5508.)
- ++ Learn the art of extracting joy from little things—be simple, be childlike.
- ++ Think of yourself as God’s partner in all you do...you are God’s workmanship—“as workers together with God.”

- ++ Think of life as an apprenticeship for your future work of blessing in the kingdom.
- ++ Think of life as an adventure—it will be!
- ++ Learn from everyone the Lord permits to cross the stage of your life.
- ++ Think of the Lord as the complement of your need...His strength made perfect (complete) in our weakness.
- ++ When you wash up after a day at the shop or office, consciously wash the day's cares down the drain and ask God's blessing on the evening hours.
- ++ Keep an "Ebenezer" blessing book. (Reprints 5227.)
- ++ Think on the points where others excel and profit by their examples...treasure good examples; learn from bad examples.
- ++ Be thankful for hurts...they teach you how not to hurt others.
- ++ Have a list of "favorite things" to cheer you "when the dog bites and the bee stings."
- ++ Be gentle...everyone is fighting a battle of some sort.
- ++ Remember...all experiences provided are needed; and all needed experiences are provided.
- ++ Stretch your new creature mind..."The scriptures encourage us to reason from the known to the unknown." (Reprints 4625.)
- ++ Think of people as being nice...you will find they are!
- ++ Think of your Christian life as a business...it should be planned and organized on a business-like basis.
- ++ Set short-range goals.
- ++ Set long-range goals.
- ++ Reward yourself for accomplishing goals.
- ++ Surround yourself with happy, cheerful things..."happy thoughts aid digestion." (Volume VI, page 540.)
- ++ Be available...your availability counts more than your ability.
- ++ Two things not to worry about: 1. What you can do something about. 2. What you can't do anything about.
- ++ When you are obedient to God's instructions, cast the burden of responsibility for results on Him.
- ++ Greet each trial as a heaven-sent messenger...(Jas. 1:2, Phillips)...“Thank you Lord, just what I need, what lesson do you want me to learn?”
- ++ Tell your weaknesses and failures to the Lord—tell your joys to all.
- ++ Put your new creature mind in God's keeping for the night. Pro. 6:22.
- ++ Plan your work and work your plan.
- ++ Cut your spiritual program from the whole cloth of life...not its remnants.
- ++ Gather up the fragments that remain: In one minute you can offer a prayer, read a Manna. In five minutes you can read a page in a Volume or Question Book or write a post card. In ten minutes you can read a Reprint page or write a thinking-of-you note.
- ++ Discipline yourself to do one hard thing (that you would rather put off) each day.
- ++ How to tackle a hard job: 1. Picture the reason for doing a thing and hold it before

your eyes. 2. Visualize the job completed. 3. Break it into manageable pieces and tackle one piece at a time.

- ++ Shepherd your thoughts...cultivate the art of meditation...set a theme for the day and week.
- ++ Don't procrastinate...“procrastination makes the simple difficult and the difficult more difficult.”
- ++ Don't criticize but show by example “a more excellent way.”
- ++ “Duty makes us do things well...love makes us do things beautifully.”
- ++ Remember...We are Christ in the flesh—let Him speak and act through you.
- ++ In fellowship with others, prime the pump...then listen.
- ++ Be a “green thumb” Christian... helping others grow.
- ++ Four words that can transform our lives...“NOT I BUT CHRIST.”
- ++ Remember...circumstances can't hurt you...unless you let them. They have already been filtered through the protective shield of God's providence before they reach you.
- ++ Be receptive to the Holy Spirit's leading. As you read and study, the Lord will bring to your mind those with whom He wants you to share these thoughts.
- ++ “The trivial round, the common task, Will furnish all we need to ask, Room to deny ourselves, A road to bring us daily nearer God. If in our daily course our mind, Be set to hallow all we find, New treasures still of countless price, God will provide for sacrifice.”
- ++ Live the common life, uncommonly!
- ++ YOU'RE THE CHILD OF A KING!

PRAYER IDEAS

- ** Pray... expecting an answer to your prayers.
- ** Pray for specific blessings and keep a record of answered prayer.
- ** Pray for a spiritual gift to take to someone for each meeting.
- ** Pick a person-of-the-month...and ask God to give you ideas on ways to be a blessing to him or her.
- ** Take a prayer break instead of a coffee break.
- ** Share answered prayer.
- ** “Life is fragile—handle with prayer.”
- ** Daily pray for each person in your ecclesia by name.
- ** Pray for the elders.
- ** Keep a list of people you witness to and follow up with prayer.
- ** Bombard one undergoing special trial with cards and prayers.
- ** Associate specific prayers with specific activities during the day...example, cleansing and forgiveness with taking a bath or shower.
- ** Every time a person comes to your mind, make it a little prayer for him or her.
- ** If you plan to write someone, pray for them before you write and ask the Lord to give you a blessing to share.

- ** Think of prayer as two-way communication...
- ** Prayer is not artful monologue, Uplifting the voice from sod. It is love's tender dialogue, Between the soul and God. — Selected.
- ** In the listening side of prayer, look for the confirmation of the Lord speaking to you “by the mouth of two witnesses.”
- ** Prayer is a spiritual beauty treatment...secret prayer will be rewarded openly—with a shining face. 2 Cor. 3:18.
- ** Never underestimate the power of prayer...“Our powers are limited to this small planet EXCEPT as we further extend them by means of prayer and thus set in motion influences whose extent we are not now able to fathom.” (Reprints 5547)

STUDY IDEAS

- + = Cross reference the Volumes, Reprints and Bible.
- + = When you hear a talk, summarize the lesson learned from it in one sentence.
- + = Have spiritual “snacks” handy.
- + = Have a spiritual portion at each meal.
- + = Spend as much time feeding the new creature as you do in feeding the natural man.
- + = Study, glorying in the privilege of thinking God's thoughts after Him—“walking through the corridors of His mind.”
- + = Always study with a purpose.
- + = Study with the object of understanding God's mind and his will for you.
- + = Look up key words in scripture texts in the concordance.
- + = Look up key scriptures in other translations.
- + = Spend as much time preparing for meetings as you spend in meetings. Read the next lesson right after the weekly study so you can be thinking about it all week and the thoughts can “marinate.”
- + = In preparing for meetings, study until you learn something you didn't know before.
- + = Think...how does this doctrine or subject affect my Christian life...make the Truth practical rather than theoretical.
- + = Keep a notebook for each Volume—with a separate section for each chapter.
- + = As you study, keep in mind...can this be illustrated?
- + = Have your own medicine chest of proven spiritual antidotes for spiritual illness and discouragement.
- + = Put special inspirational thoughts pertaining to your spiritual goals on tape...and gain the value of repetition deepening impression and expression.

WITNESSING IDEAS

- =+ Make your ambassadorship a real business...“If we are minding the heavenly things and not the earthly, we will be planning and arranging and endeavoring to devise

ways and means to advance the Lord's work to spread the knowledge of His truth. If our sphere is narrow, we will be seeking to enlarge it, just as a prudent businessman will study to increase his business and to make the most out of it." (Reprints 915.)

- =+ Have business cards for the Truth—it IS our business.
- =+ Leave your tracks (tracts) wherever you go.
- =+ "Play kingdom" in your witnessing activities.
- =+ Pretend every tract is a kingdom coupon to be redeemed now or "in the day of visitation."
- =+ Think of yourself as working together with the Lord and the saints beyond the veil in "kingdom work."
- =+ Be an artist! Paint beautiful word pictures of the kingdom.
- =+ Think of yourself as a walking advertisement for the Truth. (Titus 2:5, Phillips: "a good advertisement for the Christian faith.")
- =+ Have a garage sale to raise money for a Truth project.
- =+ Glory in Christ as your Savior and what he has done for you...and no one will ever confuse you with a JW.
- =+ Have the joy of always being planning some activity with the Lord.
- =+ Plan and work with your ecclesia...it's like a candlestick to place a candle upon to increase the scope and effectiveness of the light.
- =+ Be creative in adapting each witness to the hearer...and be personal in sharing your experience and testimony.
- =+ "Despise not the day of small things." (Zech. 4:10) "Between the great things we cannot do and the small things we will not do, the danger is that we shall do nothing." —Selected.
- =+ Open a door by faith—and the Lord will reward you by a continuous chain of open doors.
- =+ Expect results...claim the Lord's promise of "wages" and also of "gathering fruit unto life eternal."

(Comment on foregoing: knowing something of the activities of Tom and Ruth Maillard, we believe the "Ideas" listed on these four pages are the "voices of experience." We thank them for sharing their "Ideas" with us. Perhaps each one of the Lord's people has "Ideas" that could be classed as "voices of experience." Our circumstances in life are all so different! That is why it is profitable to "assemble with one another" either personally or by the printed page or by correspondence. We can assist one another to become broader and more balanced. Br. Ted Smith)

Trials are medicines which our gracious and wise Physician prescribes, because we need

them; and He proportions the frequency and the weight of them to what the case requires. Let us trust in his skill, and thank him for His prescription —Newton. The experience of others adds to our knowledge, but not to our wisdom; that is dearer-bought. —Hosea Ballou. God hath many sharp-cutting instruments and rough files for the polishing of his jewels: and those He especially loves and means to make the most resplendent, He hath oftenest His tools upon. —Leighton. “But he knoweth the way I take; when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” Job 23:10.