

Discussion and Study Guide

The Hidden Key to Happiness is written to be used in small groups. This Discussion and Study Guide provides some questions to stimulate discussion.

Many small groups may wish to spend only a few weeks on the book rather than moving through every chapter.

Here are some suggestions for abbreviating review of the book:

Six Weeks

(Concentrating on the virtuous Cycle)

Week 1	Introduction and Chapter 1
Week 2	Chapter 7
Week 3	Chapter 8
Week 4	Chapter 12
Week 5	Chapter 15
Week 6	Chapter 18 and Conclusion

Seven Weeks

(Concentrating on the obedience of faith)

Week 1	Introduction and Chapter 1
Week 2	Chapter 7
Week 3	Chapter 8
Week 4	Chapter 11
Week 5	Chapter 12
Week 6	Chapter 13
Week 7	Chapter 15

Seven Weeks

(Concentrating on practical application)

Week 1	Introduction and Chapter 1
Week 2	Chapter 7
Week 3	Chapter 8
Week 4	Chapter 22
Week 5	Chapter 23
Week 6	Chapter 24
Week 7	Chapter 25

Introduction

1. A major theme of this book is that the obedience of faith is absolutely essential to a deep, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. How do you react to this?
2. Nabers quotes John 4:34 where Jesus says, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.” Is doing Christ’s will and accomplishing his work spiritual food for your souls? In terms of what you do, what gives you the greatest satisfaction? Is it success? Making money? Or faithful obedience?
3. What are some examples in your life where faithful obedience was deeply rewarding?
4. Nabers quotes Luke 8:21 where Jesus says that “My mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.” How do we react to this truth? Do we accept that hearing and doing the will of God is the key to a relationship with Jesus?
5. Do you agree with Dallas Willard that “Kingdom obedience is Kingdom abundance?” Can we have the abundant life apart from obedience?
6. More than a century after Oswald Chambers wrote, “We must rescue the word obedience from the mire,” do you agree with him? Is the word, “obedience,” in the “mire?” Do we need to rescue it?

7. Do you agree that obedience is “an essential part of our spiritual well-being” creating “channels for the flow of grace ... to enhance every facet of our spiritual well being?” (p. xiii). If not, are you willing to be convinced for this is what *The Hidden Key* is all about.

Chapter 1: The Hidden Key

1. What do you think of Lewis' summation of the "great moral which reins in [John Milton's] *Paradise Lost*" that "obedience to the will of God makes men happy and disobedience makes them miserable?" Do you know people that live outside the will of God that are happy? Do you know people that faithfully live within the will of God who are miserable?
2. How do you react to Solomon's conclusion of Ecclesiastes? (To quote from the NIV, "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Do we have any duties in life that go beyond walking in the will of God?
3. What do you think of Nabers' shorter definition of obedience, "Obedience is aligning our wills with God's?"
4. Does Nabers' longer definition of the "obedience of faith" give a better perspective?
5. Do you agree with the proposition that it is Christ's perfect obedience and not our own efforts at obedience that make us right with God? Does this proposition give you an appreciation of your freedom in Christ?
6. Think about the outline of the scope and particularity of God's will. Does an understanding of the character of God's will free you to be obedient?

7. Nabers gives four general categories of reasons that we find obedience to be “an off-putting subject, almost toxic.” Do any of these categories fit your frame of mind?
8. Which is the one that contributes most to any difficulties that you have in the study of obedience? Are there others Nabers should have included?
9. Nabers uses John Rucyahana, an Anglican bishop in Rwanda, as an example of a man who is obedient and happy. Bishop Rucyahana is in “full-time” Christian work. Is it easier for such full-timers to be obedient and to have happiness in obedience than for those of us who work secular jobs?

Chapter 2: True Happiness?

1. Nabers says that many Christians don't feel comfortable with the concept of "happiness." Are you one of them? If you are uncomfortable with happiness being something that a Christian should seek, why?
2. Do you agree with Saint Augustine who wrote, "Everyone wants to be happy? Everyone will agree with me on this, almost before the words are out of my mouth" (p. 11). Is there anything wrong in wanting to be happy?
3. Do you agree with Nabers' distinction between pleasure and happiness?
4. Nabers says that "Happiness is not a collection of earthly pleasures. Piling more on does not increase happiness one wit" (p. 14). Do you agree with this?
5. Do you agree with Nabers that there are "good" people with solid families and successful careers who are not religious in any orthodox sense of the word?
6. Do you agree that God through scripture has given us an "owner's manual" for living and that living by this manual is a source of happiness?
7. What are the three or four most important instructions in the owner's manual in your judgment?
8. Do you agree that abiding in Christ is the crown of happiness?

9. Are you getting more comfortable with the notion that the obedience of faith is a prerequisite to having such a personal relationship with Christ?

10. Nabers quotes Andrew Murray:

“With God and with Christ our restoration to obedience was the great aim of redemption. It is the only way to union with God in which our happiness consists. Through it alone God can reveal his life and power within us.” (Emphasis added)

Has Murray overstated it? Is our “restoration to obedience” the “great aim of redemption?” If not, what was the great aim of redemption? Is obedience the “only way to union with God in which our happiness consists?” If you are dissatisfied with Murray’s observation, how would you modify it to make it accurate?

11. Nabers quotes four verses from the gospel of John 14:21, 14:16, 15:14, and 15:10 all to the effect that through obedience founded in love for Christ, we have fellowship with Christ and his Father and the Holy Spirit. How do you react to this emphasis by Christ on obedience as an essential component of fellowship with the triune God?

12. What do you think of the definition of happiness which Nabers takes from *The Pursuit of Happiness*:

“lasting and justified satisfaction with [the defining aspects of] one’s life as a whole” (p. 18)?

If we could have a deep-seeded and justified satisfaction with the major parts of our life, would we be happy? Is this something a Christian should seek?

13. Nabers turns to Jesus’ prayer in John 17:4 where Jesus says to his Father, “I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.” Is there anything that would give us greater happiness and satisfaction at the end of our lives than being able to say this to our Father?

Chapter 3: The Blessings of Obedience, Part I

1. Nabers cites Acts 5:32 for the proposition that we receive the Holy Spirit through obedience. Here Peter says that “God has given [the Holy Spirit] to those who obey him.” Do you agree that we receive the Holy Spirit through faith (Galatians 3:14) *and* through obedience?
2. Do you agree that life, meaning the abundance of life following the new birth, is available only for those who faithfully obey?
3. How do you react to George MacDonald’s insight that “obedience is the soul of knowledge” (p. 27)? When has obedience given you great insight into biblical truth?
4. Do you agree with Oswald Chambers “Five minutes of drastic obedience is more valuable than reading tomes on the work of the Holy Spirit” (p. 26)?
5. Is the statement in 1 John 3:22 that we “receive from [God] anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him” consistent with your experience? Is the prayer of the righteous more effectual than that of others? Who are some of the great prayer warriors you have known? What characterizes them?
6. Do you agree that experiencing the love of the Father relates to faithful obedience? Do you agree that though the Father’s love is always there, we

can live outside of it as did the prodigal son when we live an intentionally disobedient life?

7. Does it surprise you that the gifts of joy and peace relates to faithful obedience?
8. Nabers refers to the acronym “Jispa,” meaning “the joy of serving in peace and love.” How many “Jispa’s” do you know? Would you like to be one of them? Can there be any greater joy than that of serving in peace and love?
9. Do you agree that spiritual peace relates to the obedience of faith? How do you react to Dante’s observation that “in His will is our peace” (p. 30)? Can we have any peace outside of his will?

Chapter 4: The Blessing of Obedience, Part 2

1. Many Christians are uneasy with the notion that success and prosperity here on earth can relate to faithful obedience. Are you one of them?
2. Do you agree with Nabers that “one of the most frequently recurring themes in all of scripture is the nexus between obedience and blessing, or virtue and reward, here on earth” (p. 31)? If you disagree, how do you interpret the scripture references quoted by Nabers in the section on “Success and Prosperity?”
3. Do you agree that the blessings of God relate to generosity toward the poor?
4. Do you agree with the biblical teaching that “whoever sows generously will also reap generously?” Has it been true in your life? How so?
5. Do you agree with Nabers’ conclusions in the section on “Salvation?” Do you agree that as through the obedience of faith and the blessings of grace we receive the Holy Spirit, depth of insight, and answered prayer, we live more fully into salvation following justification? Does this help you understand the statement in Hebrews 5:9 that Christ “learned obedience through suffering and became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him?”
6. Do you agree with Nabers that *salvation* is a term that includes more than justification?

7. Do you agree that blessings in heaven relate to our obedience on earth?
8. How do you react to Nabers' discussion of "Blessings Here and Hereafter?"

Chapter 5: Obedience all Around

1. Do you agree that everyone worships and obeys some god (pp. 44-5)? What are some of the idols in your life that compete with your worship and obedience of the one true God?
2. Do you agree with Nabers' statement that the kingdom of God is the "reign and rule of God in the human realm where we freely invite and welcome it" (p. 45)?
3. We put a great emphasis on the evangelization dimension of the Great Commission. Should we put an increased emphasis on the "making disciples" dimension of the Great Commission, including teaching disciples "to obey all" that Jesus has commanded?
4. What discipleship programs are most effective? What is the most essential component of an effective discipleship program?
5. Read the passages quoted in the Chapter 6 relating to Jesus' submission of his will to his Father's. (John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38, 8:28, and 14:10) What do these passages have to teach us as to what our attitude should be toward obeying our Father?
6. Nabers quotes C. S. Lewis for the proposition that "the proper good of a creature is to surrender itself to its Creator.... When it does so it is good and

happy” (p. 48). Is it really this simple? If it is, what does this have to say about how we live our lives?

7. C. S. Lewis goes on to comment that the Son’s obedience to the Father is eternal. What does this teach us regarding our attitude toward obedience?

Chapter 6: The Obedience in the Obedience of Faith

1. Nabers discusses the Holy Spirit's leading apart from biblical commands. How has the Holy Spirit led you in your personal lives? (This subject is more fully developed in Chapters 19 and 20.)
2. Are there decisions we have made in error because we thought they were prompted by the Holy Spirit when in fact they were not? Are we too prone to think we are being led by the Holy Spirit when in fact our decisions are motivated by personal desires and agendas apart from God?
3. Nabers says that "one can live scrupulously by the law and miss altogether the reason God gave him life" (p. 56). Do you agree with this?
4. How much emphasis do you put on the "how" of our obedience? If our actions are measured by the categories of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, how well do we measure up? Which part of the fruit is least manifest in your life?
5. Nabers discusses two different approaches to decision making, "our way" and "God's way." Make a quick list of your significant decisions made in the last month and how many fall under the category of "our way" compared to "God's way?"

6. Can you eliminate duty as a motivation for obeying God? Do you obey so spontaneously and naturally that you can say that the concept of duty has been eliminated in your obedience?
7. How far along the path of duty-based to love-based obedience have you come? What is needed to help you move further down the path?

Chapter 7: The Marriage of Faith and Obedience, Part 1

1. What do you pick up from all of the voices quoted on the proposition that faith and obedience are inextricably tied to each other? Which is your favorite and why? Do you agree with John Piper that “faith and obedience are necessarily connected as root and branch?”
2. Are you surprised to learn that Paul considered that calling all nations to “the obedience of faith” was the heart of the gospel? Has Nabers made too much of the opening and closing passages of Romans?
3. Do you agree with Nabers at page 70, that “the ultimate purpose of the gospel is to bring forth a faith through which we are motivated and empowered to be obedient to the will and purpose of God for our lives, thus living a life that glorifies him?”
4. Nabers quotes Luther saying that faith is a “living, daring confidence in the grace of God...that makes [us] glad and bold and happy” as we walk with Christ in the way he has prepared for us (p. 71). Do you agree that faith is a living, dynamic and creative thing? How has faith been a living, dynamic and creative thing in your life?
5. Do you agree with Nabers that a primary function of faith is to connect the humble heart to the grace of God for the motivation and empowerment to

live lives obedient to God? Do you agree that belief, trust and obedience operate in the spiritual realm in the same way that Nabers discusses they operate in the world of golf or a football program? Are belief, trust and obedience mutually reinforcing and strengthening?

Chapter 8: The Marriage of Faith and Obedience, Part 2

1. How do you relate to the cross? How often do you think of what Christ had to do to save you? Do you live in light of the cross and Christ's atonement? Does it have any motivational effect on your life? Does Christ's love compel you? What can you do to enhance the impact of Christ's sacrifice of atonement on your life?
2. How much do you trust in God's present and future sufficiency for your life? How often have you made sacrificial decisions, confident in God's future provision?
3. Discuss the two statements from Hebrews 11:6, "without faith it is impossible to please God," and Romans 14:23, "whatever does not proceed from faith is sin." Is Nabers correct when he says that "It is not obedience through our strength that pleases God but it is the obedience from a humble heart empowered by God's grace flowing through faith that is pleasing to him" (p. 85)?
4. Is the prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21 worth memorizing and praying regularly?
5. Is there obedience in heaven, and if so is growing in the obedience of faith here on earth a preparation for our life in heaven?

Chapter 9: Law and Grace

1. Do you agree with Nabers that the Old Testament teaching on law and obedience is consistent with the New Testament teaching on grace?
2. Do you agree that the Shema provides a good framework for understanding all biblical obedience? Are the four “easy steps” in biblical obedience (see p. 93-95) a good summary for our understanding of the biblical teaching on law?
3. If law is an expression of will, do we believe that the moral law of the Old Testament is an expression of the permanent will of God? Is this what Christ was referring to in Matthew 5:17-20? (See p. 100).
4. Do we agree with David that God’s law is “more precious than gold...sweeter than honey?” (Psalm 19:7-8, 10) Is this an attitude for Jews only?
5. Do you agree with Nabers that law and grace embrace one another in the new covenant (p. 100)?
6. How does the “truth” set us free (John 8:32)? How do we come to know the truth? (See John 8:31) Does truth have a power? How has faith in biblical truth given you freedom?

Chapter 10: The Village that Saved 5,000 Lives

1. André Trocmé had a powerful religious experience when he was a teenager. A complete stranger to his life, Kindler, a German soldier was used by God to make a profound impression on Trocmé. Were there any defining events in your spiritual life while you were a teenager? Has God ever used a stranger to leave God's indelible mark in your soul? How?
2. Though Trocmé was a conscientious objector and renounced violence in all its forms, his deep faith led to what he called an "ethic of combat." In its broadest terms, an ethic of combat is a deep commitment to be used by Christ in his redemptive plan which means fighting the "dark forces of this world" (Galatians 6:12). Do you have an ethic of combat? Where and how has Christ called you participate in Christ's redemptive plan?
3. Trocmé used a small groups throughout his ministry. They were a critical way of his providing leadership at Le Chambon. Should small groups be connected to some redemption plan or purpose?
4. What impressed you most about Le Chambon as a "city of refuge?" What was the driving force of the village's "ethic of combat?"
5. What lessons can you draw from Trocmé's leadership style? How did he lead so effectively with so little?

Chapter 11: Thy Will be Done: The Key to Obedience

1. There was a time in which Christians paid attention to the will. We do not do so much anymore. Would you agree with George MacDonald that the will is the, “deepest, strongest, divinest thing in man?” Or with Oswald Chambers that it is the “whole man alive” and “the profoundest thing in man?” How important is your will in your service of God? In your success?
2. How much do you concentrate on God’s will? How seriously do you take the petition in the Lord’s Prayer, “thy will be done?” Do you personalize this petition when you pray it, “Thy will be done [in my life]?”
3. How seriously did Christ take his Father’s will? See Matthew 7:21, “only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven” will enter the kingdom of heaven, and John 4:34, “my food...is to do the will of him who sent me and finish his work?”
4. How hard is it for you to consider the will as the central faculty in your heart? What does it mean to have a pure heart? Is it closely related to having a “good will?”
5. Do you agree with George MacDonald that, “only, in the relation of the two wills, God’s and his own, can man come into vital contact with the All-in-all” (p. 124)?

6. Do you agree with Andrew Murray that, “the creature can have no more of God than he has of God’s will working in him? He that would meet and find God must seek him in his will; union with God’s will is union with himself” (p. 125)?
7. Do you agree that there is a cosmic battle between Satan and Christ going on for the will of every human being? Do you agree with Nabers at p. 131 that, “neither Christ nor Satan can reign in our lives, nor influence any decision we make, without our consent. And our consent is an act of our wills?”
8. Is your will surrendered to Jesus Christ? In what areas of your life may it not be?

Chapter 12: The Power to Obey: The Holy Spirit

1. What did you think of the example of New Covenant University which Nabers gives to open the chapter? Does it accurately portray the challenge of the Christian in our growth in obedience?
2. Do you agree with the statement of St. Thomas Aquinas that “it is the grace of the Holy Spirit given through faith in Christ that is predominant in the law of the New Covenant and that in which its whole power exists” (p. 136)?
3. Do you agree with John Stott that “the Christian life is essentially life in the Spirit...without the Holy Spirit true Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, indeed impossible” (p. 137)?
4. Do you agree that the primary work of the Holy Spirit is to motivate and empower us in trust and obedience? Do you think it is easy to miss this work of the Holy Spirit and concentrate more on signs and wonders and miracles?
5. Discuss Paul’s teaching in Romans 8:6 that “the mind of sinful man is death...the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.” Are all the faculties of your soul, will, mind and emotions surrendered to the Holy Spirit? What parts of your soul or life may not be surrendered? Is the Holy Spirit your source of life and peace?

6. What do you think of Nabers' discussion of the virtuous cycle between faith, the Holy Spirit and obedience? Have you noticed a spiritual virtuous cycle in your soul? Have you been aware of that kind of cycle intersecting with cycles in others as was illustrated in the example of Steven?
7. What did you think of the example that Nabers gives related to Ben Hogan's hitting a one iron? Is the work of the Holy Spirit comparable to what Nabers calls a "Ben Hogan pill?"
8. What does it mean to be "filled with the Holy Spirit?" Can you point to one or more incidences in your life in which you have been aware that your heart has been flooded with his presence?

Chapter 13: It's Not About "Me": Self Denial

1. Do you agree with Nabers that the "old self" needs to be treated as an enemy which we need to destroy?
2. Does it help you understand yourself to see your will as the object of a battle waged between Christ and Satan?
3. What are some of the ways your old self tends to lead you into sin?
4. Do you agree with Nabers that it is hard for us to recognize our self-centeredness? How does the old self lead you into sinful ways through greed, gluttony, anger, lust, sloth, pride or envy?
5. The quote taken from C. S. Lewis is on the last page of *Mere Christianity*. Do you agree that "there must be a real giving up of the self" and that "Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours" and that "Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead" (pp. 151-2)?
6. Do you agree with Nabers' discussion of self denial, humility and sinful nature or the flesh?
7. Consider the graph on page 154. Is it helpful to see all growth in the obedience of faith in relation to the denial of the old self and submission to the Holy Spirit?

Chapter 14: Love: The Heart of Obedience, Part 1

1. Do you agree with Jonathan Edwards that most human action in the world derives from love of some kind or another? What are the loves that drive your life? Should we add fishing or golf or Alabama or Auburn football to the list? Should the pursuit of money be there?
2. What is your “first” love? Can you honestly say that it is God? If it is, then does the way you spend your time, money and energy substantiate this?
3. Do you agree with Nabers that for the Christian life, love is the polestar, the compass, the first mate, the rudder, the fuel and the engine?
4. Do you agree that love organizes and activates all the other virtues in life such as wisdom, courage, faith, etc.?
5. What do you think of the quote from Tom Watson at p.166? Is love the organizing principle of your life?
6. Is Christ the CEO of your life in such a way as to make love the driving force of your life?

Chapter 15: Love: The Heart of Obedience, Part II

1. Is it easier for you to understand and practice love of neighbor than love of God?
2. Is your love for God the first thing, and the main thing in your life?
3. Do you agree that our love for God and our obedience to God are inseparable? See John 14:15, 21, 23-24. Do you agree that love for God should be added to the virtuous cycle of faith, the Holy Spirit and obedience?
4. Do you agree with Chuck Colson that “Loving God – really loving Him – means living out His commands no matter what the cost” (p. 174)?
5. Do you agree that love of neighbor is an act of the will? Do you agree with Billy Graham that, “the love God wants us to have isn’t just an emotion, but a conscious act of the will, deliberate design to put others ahead of ourselves” (p. 175)?
6. Do you agree that in our work Christ is the boss? See Colossians 3: 23. Do you agree that the maturing virtues which loves nurtures, as listed in 1 Corinthians 13, and eliminating of the vices listed in that chapter, are important to the kind of teamwork that will make a for-profit company stronger?

7. What do you think is the role of love in competition?
8. In Revelation 2: 4-5, Christ criticizes the church at Ephesus for abandoning its “first love” of God and therefore not doing the things it had done at first. Do we recognize some of this in our own experience? Did we do things at first to express our love of God which we have dropped over the years?

Chapter 16: The Mind of Obedience

1. Do you agree that a fundamental part of repentance is to have a new mind?
2. Christ commissioned Paul to take the gospel to the Gentiles to “open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light.” Acts 26:17-18. Is this a primary role of all preaching? If it is, how important is prayer before, during and after teachings and sermons?
3. Do we agree that the renewal of our minds is by sheer grace?
4. Nabers describes his conversion experience and through it coming to an entirely new mindset based on the teaching of scripture. Have any of you had a similar experience?
5. Nabers points to the prayers of Paul and how in virtually all of them he prays for spiritual knowledge and understanding for believers in his churches. Do you regularly pray for a growth in spiritual knowledge and discernment?
6. Do you agree that the battlefield between Satan and Christ is in the mind? If it is, what should we do with respect to our minds to keep the “father of lies” away?
7. How do you use the word of God to confront the temptations of Satan?

8. How strong do we consider our consciences to be? When we veer from the straight and narrow path do we have clear consciences that the Holy Spirit can use to cause us to quickly repent and change course?
9. Do we know those who have veered from obedience and have ignored the prompting of their consciences to repent and therefore have wandered from faithful obedience?
10. Do we “take captive of every thought to make it obedient to Christ?” Does this apply to fear, lust, greed, and all other kinds of sinful thought?

Chapter 17: Emotions in the Obedience of Faith

1. Do you agree that God loves strong and fervent desire?
2. Do you agree with C. S. Lewis that “desiring our own good” is a good thing?
(pp. 198-99)
3. Do you agree with John Piper that our soul is a veritable “factory of desires”
(p. 201)?
4. What is the difference between a life driven by emotion and a life of faith?
Is there a tendency in the Christian church in the United States for our lives to be driven by emotion?
5. Do you agree that a persistent drive for more, bigger and better is the source of most, if not all, progress in life? Are Christians to participate in a passionate desire for more, bigger and better? What are the pitfalls in doing so? How can they be avoided?
6. Is pain the crucible of obedience? What do you think of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s writing about his experience in prison bringing him to the faith?
7. Do you agree with Solzhenitsyn that, “the line separating good and evil passes ... right through every human heart” (p. 205)? What does this mean? Is that line in your heart? How does the obedience of faith as we have

discussed it in this book allow you to draw that line to include more good and less evil?

8. Do you agree the discussion of why messianic prophesy states that the delight of the Messiah will be “in the fear of the Lord” (p. 206)? Was the delight of Jesus in fact in the fear of the Lord? Explain.
9. Do you agree with Nabers that “the craven impulse to quit, to leave a course we have chosen in faith, is almost always of Satan” (p. 208)? Have there been occasions in your life where you have quit that you now regret? What does this have to say with respect to the care and prayer that we should have before we enter into an important assignment in our lives? Do you agree with Oswald Chambers that when we fear God we fear nothing else, whereas if we do not fear God we fear everything else? (p. 208)

Chapter 18: Obedience Becoming Natural: The Character of Christ

1. Do you agree that our characters are made up of habits, good and bad?
2. Do you agree that character is formed early in a person's life and that the habits of the Christian life need to be inculcated in our children at an early age?
3. Do you agree that the Holy Spirit and Christ-like character must operate together, that the wind needs a sail?
4. Are there habits in your life, formed before you became a Christian which continue to haunt you?
5. Do you agree that adding Christ-like character to the spiritual virtuous cycle is necessary?
6. Has it ever occurred to you that the famous teachings at Philippians 2:5-13 is a teaching on obedience?
7. Do you agree that Jesus' obedient character was built around humility, self-emptying and servanthood?
8. Do you agree with St. Augustine that "humility is the foundation of all other virtues," and with Jonathan Edwards that, humility is the "most essential thing in true religion" (p. 218)?

9. Do you agree that humility is a virtue of the mind; i.e., seeing reality clearly: our worthiness, smallness and dependence; and God's omnipotence, omniscience and holiness?
10. How do you stand with respect to self-emptying? Are you willing, should Christ call, to leave wealth, position and comforts behind? To what extent do you leave such things behind in small ways in our daily life?
11. Jesus was a servant. Do we follow his example? Do we, figuratively, wash others feet? Do we prefer to wield a scepter rather than carry a hoe to use the words of St. Bernard? (p. 224) Do we understand our work to be that of a servant to other employees, our owners and our customers, but most of all to Christ?

Chapter 19: Speak, Lord! Discerning the Will of God, Part 1

1. How often do we use prayer to listen rather than to make petitions? To what extent is our prayer a prayer for discernment? See Psalm 25:4-5. Should not part of our prayer each day be for discernment of God's will? See Colossians 1:9-10.
2. If we pray, "speak, Lord, for your servant is listening," 1 Samuel 3:9-10, do we have faith that God will show us his will?
3. Do we enter into prayer with a sacrificial attitude, being willing to "offer our bodies as living sacrifices?"
4. What are some of the "patterns of this world" that get in the way of our hearing God and obeying him?
5. Proverbs 3:5-6 teaches that if we trust in the Lord with all of our heart and lean not on our own understanding...he will make our path straight. Do we enter into prayer with such a whole-hearted trust? Do we pray for deeper faith?
6. Do we understand that it is through love that we will "abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight so that [we] may be able to discern what is best...?" Philippians 1:9-10

7. Do we understand that the Lord guides us as we “spend” ourselves in behalf of the hungry? Isaiah 58:10. What does this mean practically in your life?

Chapter 20: Speak Lord, Discerning the Will of God, Part 2

1. How fully does your prayer life follow scripture? Have you memorized critical verses of the Bible so that you can use them in prayer? God speaks to us through his Word. Is his Word on your heart through memorization?
2. Do you agree that there is a possibility of “led poisoning?” Have any of us made decisions, thinking that the Spirit is leading us, when in fact we found out later that he was not?
3. Have any of us made decisions against our conscience and later regretted it? If our conscience says “no,” is that always a check on our actions which we should follow?
4. How often do we seek the counsel of others? Do we agree with Proverbs that “plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed?” 15:22
5. Do you agree that the Christian life is more like a golf game or tennis match than a football game? (p. 245) Are we not sometimes required to make decisions without a clear sense of what God is telling us to do? What are some examples of this in your life?

Chapter 21: Obedience in Our Daily Lives

1. What impresses you the most about Truett Cathy as a Christian leader?

2. How do you react to Chick-fil-A's Corporate Purposes:

To glorify God by being faithful stewards of all that he has entrusted to us.

To have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A?

3. Do you agree with Truett that “there is really no such thing as business ethics, there is only personal ethics” (p. 257)?

4. How do we go about strengthening personal ethics of a business? Are words or example more important?

5. How important are the principles and purposes of a business in bringing out the best in all of its people?

6. Do family businesses have an advantage over public businesses in bringing glory to God? If so, how?

7. Does Chick-fil-A bring glory to God in a special way by being closed on Sundays?

Chapter 22: Obedience in Real Life: Calling

1. Jesus calls us with the words, “Follow me.” Was there a specific time in your life when you heard Jesus’ call?
2. Do you agree that we are called primarily to “belong” to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:6)? What does it mean to belong to Christ? How fully is this “belonging” in your consciousness?
3. Do you agree that Christ has a plan and purpose for your life? What is it?
4. Do you pray that God will equip you “with everything good” for the doing of his will? Should you? Does his will extend to your work?
5. What does the Sachett illustration say to you? Do we pray that an evangelist will meet the lost in our midst? Should we?
6. Do you agree with Andrew Murray that we are redeemed that we might do the will of God on earth as in heaven and for “this alone” (p. 269)? If not, why not?
7. Comment on Paul’s prayer in 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12. Is this a good prayer to pray daily? Do you trust that God will: “fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith?”
8. How does the doctrine of calling add meaning to your life?

Chapter 23: Obedience in Real Life: Work

1. Do you see all your work in light of your calling to “belong” to Jesus Christ?
2. Do you see your work as part of Jesus Christ’s redemption of a broken world? How so? What can you do in your work to enhance Christ’s redemption?
3. What are you doing in response to the Great Commission? What more might you do?
4. How should a parent build character in a child? Edmund Burke once said, “Example is the school of mankind. It will learn at no other.” How does this apply to parenting?
5. How does your work relate to Genesis 1:26-28?
6. Do you agree with Nabers’ discussion with the importance God attaches to establishing justice?
7. Where in your life are you a factor in creating “shalom?” Can you recount episodes in your life where you have weakened shalom?
8. Discuss 1 Corinthians 7:20. Has God allowed you to: “remain in the situation” you were in when God first called you? Do you know anyone whom God’s call uprooted for work in an entirely different situation?

Chapter 24: Obedience in Real Time

1. What is your prayer life like? Is it a source of nourishment and pleasure? If not, do you agree that we need to pray for the fullness in the Holy Spirit? Do you agree that early morning is generally the best time for prayer?
2. Do you agree with Nabers' discussion of the oft-used thought, "God first, family second, work third" (pp. 289-90)?
3. What "commission" work do you do? Does your commission work risk impairing the excellence of your core work? Can commission work become an idol?
4. Do you agree with the importance that Nabers attaches to core work?
5. Do you agree with Nabers' discussion of "success" and "significance?" (p. 294)
6. What do you do to "sharpen the saw" in the spiritual realm?
7. How do you react to the somewhat modified quotation from George Bernard Shaw? (p. 297) Is it biblical to want to be "thoroughly used up" when we die?
8. What does Isaiah 58:13-14 say to us with respect to blessings for honoring the Sabbath?

Chapter 25: Obedience and Leadership

1. Do you agree that the overall objective of all organization and enterprise is to be creative and fruitful?
2. Do you agree that the role of leadership in all organizations is to craft a worthy mission within God's overarching commission; to align the wills of all to accomplish that mission; and to maximize capability by bringing out the best in every member? How else might you describe the role of leadership?
3. Where between the two poles of command and control and Servant Leadership is your leadership at home and at work?
4. Do you agree that command and control leadership produces little fruit?
5. Do you agree with Grant Gilmore that "the worse the society, the more law there will be. In hell there will be nothing but law and [it] will be meticulously obeyed?"
6. Do you agree with Nabers' discussion of the challenge of servant leadership? (pp. 308-9) Is this a real challenge for the United States? In your own family?

7. Do you agree, in biblical terms, that all leadership should move as far toward the servant leadership pole as possible? What factors that prevent this? How should leadership attempt to overcome them?