

Welcome To
Celebrate Recovery
Give
(November 24, 2010)

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Celebrate Recovery

Give

A. Introduction

"Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. Here are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (also called Peter), then Andrew (Peter's brother), James (son of Zebedee), John (James's brother), Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew (the tax collector), James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon (the zealot), Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him). Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: "Don't go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, but only to the people of Israel—God's lost sheep. Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!" Matthew 10:1-8

"...And if you are asked about your Christian hope (that's what has happened in your recovery), always be ready to explain it. But you must do this in a gentle way and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak evil against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live, because you belong to Christ." 1 Peter 3:15-16

"If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving - large or small - it will be used to measure what is given back to you." Luke 6:38

B. "G" stands for "God first".

"Since God did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't God, Who gave us Christ, also give us everything else? Romans 8:32

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." 2 Peter 1:3

C. "I" stands for "I becomes we".

"Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. **But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble.** And on a cold night, two under the same blanket can gain warmth from each other. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

D. "V" stands for "Victories Shared".

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles **so that we can comfort others.** When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us". 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

E. "E" stands for "Example of your actions".

"Dear children, let us stop saying we love each other; let us really show it by our

actions." 1 John 3:18

"So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions" Galatians 5:16-17

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!" Galatians 5:22-23

PRAYER

"Lord, I need the fruit of _____. I know others are looking at me right now, and I want to be a good example. Please empower me to do this. You promise Your

fruit in Galatians 5:22. I trust You. I believe You will provide it. Thank You. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen."