

Personal Rule of Life Statements

Your personal rule of life is a holistic description of the Spirit-empowered rhythms and relationships that create, redeem, sustain and transform the life of God invites you to humbly fulfill for Christ's glory.

In order to begin to frame your rule of life (the focus of the first five chapters), the authors covered five very important issues: roles, gifts, desires, vision and mission. Each of these areas needs to be clarified as best as possible so that the general overview of your life is clearly understood and articulated as you move forward in crafting a personal rule of life. Before moving on part two, summarize your thoughts here. How is the Lord leading you in all five of these overarching areas of your personal life? Record your thoughts below: Write one paragraph for each area, and 2 pages (single space).

My Roles:

“Your personal rule of life is discerned and framed within the context of your primary relationships and your spiritual community, and lived out in service to others” (p.21)

I am a son of God, earthly son, uncle, brother, newly made boyfriend, provider, friend, financial intelligence provider, voice of reason, listening ear, student, service provider, business man, creator, fitness motivator. This is interesting to express and label as I am usually an advocate of not labeling myself, so that I don't limit my abilities and opportunities to develop and evolve. However, I now feel that after taking this current retreat that by placing a title on the hat placed on and the role I play for myself and to others. I am now able to expand and delete those that don't align to my goals or improve upon those that do. This is an enlightening moment that I will continue to do throughout my life because I will continue to change and become different throughout my life. I look forward to adding new roles like husband, father, grandfather, home owner, success, etc.

My Gifts:

“Your personal rule of life is discerned and framed through the discovery of your spiritual gifts, natural talents and temperament” (p.32)

This is something that has been a constant battle but I am happy to say God always wins. I think that it's a special thing to have had an upbringing in the base of The Lord. Being raised in a household that believed in God's grace, mercy endureth forever. This has framed the foundations to my temperament. This placed a moment of reflection and consciousness that I do not have to make these decisions alone. Being able to turn inward not just to my own sensibility but to spiritual discovery and listen to where The Lord desires for me to be. This is not as easy as his voice is but a whisper and the world can be so loud. The Lord bestows upon us all gifts to share with others and to bring forth praise to Him. These gifts can be easily swayed into selfish and narcissistic thoughts if you are not grounded in The Lord. I will continue to pray for a clear line of communication with God to aid me through the highs and the

lows.

My Desires:

“Your personal rule of life is discerned and framed through the longings, yearnings and goals God has placed on your heart and mind that propel you forward with joy” (p.43)

This section is like the gas to the movie vehicle of my actions. I have a longing for my family to become financially free. Freedom has always been a goal of the black community. Freedom to me means the ability to engage in desires without restriction, limitless opportunity and security. I tend to think of my ancestors' sacrifice for the generations that they had not yet seen but strived to cause a ripple of promise for their future. The weight of that responsibility is one that I am honored to carry and lighten for the next generation. My desire to create and develop generational wealth for my family and community is a desire and an accomplishment that I seek to accomplish in the near future.

My Vision:

“Your personal rule of life is discerned and framed within the holistic, long-term vision and passion God had planted in your heart” (p.54)

My personal rule of life is to “keep going”. To me this means to continue to place one foot in front of the other. By doing so I can become one step further from where I began and one step closer to where I am going. Allowing myself to focus solely on the next step strengthens my focus, discipline and commitment. My holistic belief of God stepping with me and placing his hand of grace upon me at my time of need is secured in the understanding that I am guided by His whispers. My vision of my next step allows me to adjust to the obstacles that arise and allows me to tap into the solutions that are qualified for me to overcome any given situation.

My Mission:

“Your personal rule of life is discerned and framed within the specific purpose(s) God invites you to fulfill in this season of life” (p.66)

My mission is to educate myself so that I may educate others with the knowledge gained from illustration and through my personal experiences. My mission is to be present in the moment and direct my focus to the immediate subject. I know that I will be added by tThe Lord in this area as difficult times will come. I pray that The Lord provides me with the ability of discernment. I pray that The Lord builds my defenses and blesses my input and output of energy, information, language, relationships, thoughts and desires. I have faith in The Lord's promises that I have been poured into for this exact purpose. The past and future obstacles won't be my last but they are also not my first. I will rise like a great wave, persevere through for God is will me. My mother, niece, nephew, sister, brother, future wife and children, generationsions to come, community, and culture are continuing on me and I would be doing them

a disservice, if I do not put forth my skills, abilities and gifts.

Christopher Brantley
Personal Life Table

	SPIRITUAL LY (TIME)	RELATIONAL LY (TRUST)	PHYSICAL LY (TEMPL E)	FINANCIAL LY (TREASUR E)	MISSIONAL LY (TALENT)
DAILY / REGULAR LY	Reading a motivational prayer for men (book by Tony Evans)	Contact one family member that is not my mother.	Workout for approx. 30min. - 1 hr. daily	Spend no more than \$15 on food	Research information on individual financial wellness for 30 min - 1 hr.
WEEKLY	Listen (YouTube) or attend a church service	Acknowledge a family members impact in your life	Get a massage (20min, 30min, 1hr)	Rotate credit card usage and pay off at the end of the week	Research information on family financial wellness for 30min - 1hr.
MONTHLY	Attending a men's group meeting to discuss being a man of God	Send my mother a gift, card, flowers, etc.	Go swimming	Pay of any debt/bills.	Attend a conference on building a business, financial wellness (new business obstacles opportunities & solutions).
QUARTERL Y/ SEASONAL LY	Write 3 pages toward your journey to reaching full potential book	Take girlfriend out to a classy restaurant	Doing an activity that is new (hot air balloon, learn how to backflip, learn to)	Adjust financial portfolio	Speak with family regarding financial goals of family business and investments

ANNUALLY	Go on a faith retreat	Take a family trip	Engage in a large activity (marathon, Spartan race, tournament)	Have 20 - 30% of income in investment accounts	Have a family business proposal designed.
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