

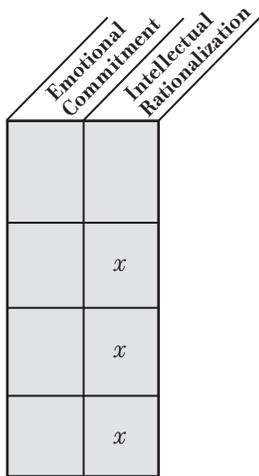
1. What are the characteristics of a mature believer in Christ?

2. What are the characteristics of an abundant life in Christ Jesus?

3. What are the characteristics of a person who is experiencing the grace of God?

4. What are the characteristics of a Christian who is growing in faith?

Here is a construct that has helped many people:



Levels of Commitments

I referred earlier to Abraham Maslow's "Hierarchy of Human Need." His model looks like this:



Here are some subjects for your meditation:

SOME ASPECTS OF CHRIST'S CHARACTER

<i>Spirit filled</i>	Luke 23:46
<i>Compassionate</i>	Matthew 15:32
<i>Loving</i>	John 15:12-17
<i>Teacher</i>	John 14:26
<i>Sinless</i>	Ephesians 1:7
<i>Humility</i>	Psalm 34:2
<i>Forgiving</i>	Acts 13:38

<i>Wisdom</i>	I Corinthians 24
<i>Prophet</i>	Deuteronomy 13:26
<i>Exhorting</i>	Titus 1:9
<i>Prays</i>	Luke 11:1
<i>True</i>	Nehemiah 9:13
<i>Faithful</i>	Luke 16:10
<i>Merciful</i>	Luke 6:36
<i>Heart for the lost</i>	Psalms 119:176
<i>Good Shepherd</i>	John 21:16
<i>Obedient</i>	Deuteronomy 4:30
<i>Just</i>	Hebrews 12:23
<i>Benevolent</i>	Joshua 2:14
<i>Self-denying, Self-sacrificing</i>	Matthew 4:1–11
<i>The Eternal God and Creator</i>	Deuteronomy 33:27
<i>Omnipotent</i>	Revelation 19:6
<i>The Lord of all</i>	I Corinthians 12:13
<i>Equality with God</i>	Isaiah 46:5–13
<i>Like us in all things but without sin</i>	2 Corinthians 5:21

Time Management Model

Here is my proven Time Management Model. Usually, it is most desirable to develop your model on a representative month basis.

Assume

Twelve hours in a day*

Seven days in a week

4.33 weeks in one month

Therefore: a model month has 364 hours

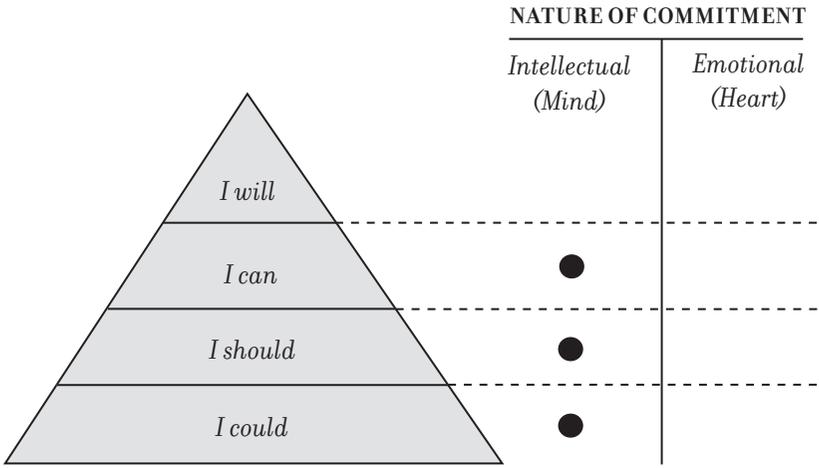
Life domain	Typical hours/ month invested in domain (hours)	Percent of month invested in domain (%)	Notes
Personal			
Family			
Faith/church			
Vocational			
Community			
<i>Totals</i> (364 hours=100%)	364	100%	

Now let's look at a life way out of balance:

How I Invest My Time: A Typical Month

Life domain	Typical hours/ month invested in domain (hours)	Percent of month invested in domain (%)	Notes
Personal	25	5%	
Family	29	7%	
Faith/church	10	3%	
Vocational	300	85%	
Community	0	0	
<i>Totals</i> (364 hours=100%)	364	100%	<i>I had no idea that my family life was only 7% of my time.</i>

This chart represents my life for over four decades.



Discussion Questions

1. What kind of Christian does Tom Paterson admit he was for nearly twenty years? What event caused him to “wake up” to the fact that he was “asleep”? What was the outcome of the event, and why do you think it served to strengthen his faith?
2. Entering into a friendship with God is one of the end goals of *Deeper, Richer, Fuller*. What does a divine friendship with Him entail, exactly? Is it forced? Do you agree with Paterson’s notion that “friendship is rooted in religion”?
3. Paterson remarks that we are “creatures bound in time and we develop over time.” What is it about being bound in time that can make it difficult for us to develop our friendship with God?
4. How does Paterson think most people view the spiritual world? How does he think we *should* view it? How did Jesus think we should view it? Which viewpoint do you agree with and why?
5. Throughout *Deeper, Richer, Fuller*, Paterson points out the importance of perspective and how it relates to our growing relationship with God. How do we go about making our perspective clear? Where does the concept of H.O.W. fit into this?

6. Talk about LifeGates. Where do they fall on the pathway of our lives? Why does Paterson think we need to be concerned with them? How do they work to improve our relationship with God?
7. Paterson outlines the seven stages of transcendence and describes the effects of each stage. Do you agree with his summations? Why or why not? Do you think there should be more steps? Less?
8. What is an Everyday Saint? What are the three steps to becoming an Everyday Saint? How did Paterson initially learn these steps?
9. Discuss the concept of salvation and its importance in *Deeper, Richer, Fuller*. What are the ways in which we can be saved from sin? What is the importance of salvation?
10. Talk about the three abilities that the Holy Spirit imparts upon us. What is the importance of each? How must we utilize them as we journey through the LifeGates?
11. Do you agree that in order to get the most out of our spiritual lives we must surrender ourselves to God? Is it possible to incorporate the lessons learned in this book and live a faithful life and not surrender?

Author Questionnaire

1. What was the inspiration for putting all your thoughts on paper? Why do you think a book like *Deeper, Richer, Fuller* is needed now more than ever?

In my first book, *Living the Life You Were Meant to Live*, I had two chapters on surrender. My editor said I was overpowering my book with surrender and asked that I take one chapter out and save it for the next book. I did that and put it in this book without change. Surrender is the great near void in the Christian church. Have you ever even heard a pastor give a sermon on the subject? Fulton Sheen went so far as to say that Christianity does not become so until one enters the mystical stage through surrender. Surrender is the path to a life as an Everyday Saint. Europe has now gone secular and we are moving in that direction.

2. The concept of the eight stages of transcendence is a cornerstone of *Deeper, Richer, Fuller*. Is it ever possible to get “stuck” in one stage? How can people take the next faith filled step to the next stage?

One can get stuck in a stage. Most Christians are. One can regress. With so many, many millions of people losing their homes due to unemployment there has been a sliding backward to insecurity. When you place yourself in God's hands taking the next step is easy. Repeatedly in the Bible our Lord tells us to "only believe." He wants a total belief...he wants all of us, our heart, our mind, our soul...ALL. ALL is ALL.

3. You openly admit that the loss of three of your four children was a heartbreaking experience, yet it served to strengthen your relationship with God. What advice would you give to a parent who has just lost a child? How can they continue to work to strengthen their friendship with God despite such a tragedy?

Over 80 percent of marriages fail after the loss of a child. The grief is mirrored in your partner's eyes. Unless we have surrendered, the agony is just too much and the marriage fails. My wife and I pulled together. Our love for each other was ever more intense throughout our marriage. We lost two of our four children when Ginny was alive. Our son, Jim, was killed after Ginny died. I am glad she didn't have to live through that. They are all together now in heaven, and because there is no time in heaven, we will be together again in a moment from their perspective.

4. Many people only hear the "good news" when they are seeking forgiveness. Is it possible to hear the good news in a time of happiness? If we have happiness, have we already heard the good news?

There is a strong tendency to turn to God when we are in trouble and to forget Him when happy. When we have yielded to our Lord completely, we are bathed in His light...we see the world as for the first time...in Technicolor. I start every day thanking him for the wonderful world I live in. Surrendered Christian live in two worlds at once: They live the Good News.

5. Why do you think people resist becoming Everyday Saints? What holds them back? What would you say to someone struggling with the notion of becoming an Everyday Saint?

We resist becoming Everyday Saints because we see it as having to give up the little avarices we are enjoying. Deprivation. Constantine's mother prayed for her son for over twenty years. He kept telling her, "I want to be good but later. I am having too good a time." She asked God if she could stop praying for her son. God told her to continue praying for him. This is the person who became St. Constantine, one of the greatest Christians the world has ever produced. Our finite minds cannot understand the infinite. I don't waste a second trying to understand why it took more than twenty years to give the world Constantine.

6. You intersperse your advice with various opportunities for people to chart their progress as they move into a closer relationship with God. Why is it so important that we chart our progress? What happens if we are not seeing a change even after our conversion to Christ?

We resist becoming Everyday Saints because we see it as having to give up the little avarices we are enjoying. Deprivation. Constantine's Mother prayed for her son for over twenty years. He kept telling her "I want to be good but later. I am having too good a time." She asked God if she could stop praying for her son. God told her to continue praying for him. This is the person who became St. Constantine, one of the greatest Christians the world has ever produced. Our finite minds cannot understand the infinite. I don't waste a second trying to understand why it took more than twenty years to give the world Constantine.

7. *Deeper, Richer, Fuller* combines the elements of an advice book with a daily workbook. Was there ever any inclination to lean more in one direction than the other?

Yes, there is a tendency for our day and its pressures to crowd time with God out. I have done more LifePlans with pastors than anyone else in the world at this point. We start the day with a devotion. Pastors who are at my home always join in gladly. Not one has said they have a devotion at home. They tell me that they do not do so.

8. Surrender is a large part of a successful conversion. And yet you emphasize the importance of passion for our talents and how we need to better ourselves. How can someone be sure they are not leaning too much in one direction? Can we surrender “too much” or be “overly” passionate?

We can avoid leaning in one direction too much by assessing how we are investing our time. I think of time in terms of an investment: I don't “spend” time. I am working on the amount of time I invest in meditation. It is too little. I underinvest at this time in it.

9. Is it possible for this book to function as advice on how to become a better person? That is, can someone utilize this book to inspire better relationships with their friends, their family and themselves (if not God?).

This book will result in better relationships with everyone if the path to transcendence is lived out. In fact, the original name I had for this book was “Becoming Best Friends with God.” I have a covenant with God that every word I speak to another person will be a blessing, never a curse. I will not tell a joke that is at someone's expense...as most “Polish” jokes are. I will not let a grandchild tell one. I politely tell them not to tell such jokes and I tell them why. Such stories are curses.

10. What's next for you?

I have a forty-page outline of a book I call "Parenting in Christ: Helping Your Children to Live the Life They Were Meant to Live." God didn't want that book to be next. He wanted *Deeper, Richer, Fuller*. I could not write another word after I finished the outline. When I got back to His work, the words just flowed. I think it is time for the parenting book, but I have not been nudged to do it at this point. God sets my agenda.