**Personal Goals and Growth Plan**

- The more seriously you take your growth, the more seriously your people will take you.
- Growth will require you to always be out of your comfort zone.
- Growth demands a temporary surrender of security. It may mean giving up familiar but limiting patterns, safe but unrewarding work, values no longer believed in, and relationships that have lost their meaning. - John C. Maxwell

**Bible Study**

**The Theology of Simplicity and Pentecost**

One of the things that is certain about God, and the way God relates to us, is that God often uses the very simple to deal with the very complex. While simplicity seems to be very practical from its inception, it should never be reduced to sub-standard or low value. Simplicity requires a thought, a plan, a means of execution, and proper lens to see its results. While the trials and the tribulations that we face can be very complex and difficult to unravel and deal with at times, the remedy for correction is often found in making a simple move, having a simple conversation, being open for a simple adjustment, or simply doing something simply another way.

Living a simple life is essential for the best life you are designed to live. While there are many things that have the potential of complicating our lives today; living the simple life has to be a choice you make. You have the power and the authority to choose simplicity. It is a shift of mindset; it is a determination that the complication of a given matter should not complicate your mind and your spirit. Complications will find its way into our homes, marriages, communication, finances, rearing of children, relationships, and even with how we understand and do church. These are just a few ways in which life is made complicated, not to mention the political climate of deception, lies, and hostility that we are confronted with today. In some sense, a revival of how we understanding complexity and simplicity needs to happen. I like the way Karen Bacon put it when she said, “Revival is when God gets tired of being mis-represented, and then shows up and represents Himself”. (Soul Tsunami, 787). Perhaps we have misrepresented God, and now God is giving us a strategy for simplifying process.

Therefore, the God-Simple book is designed to help you simplify your life, and move you to a place where you realize what is needed to elevate you, promote you, and move you higher in your next dimension. It is not more stuff, more complexity, more trivial things that we think we need. As a matter of fact, everything that God has allowed and permitted you to go through was simply about minimizing your life and need, and moving you to a place where you realize all your really need for security and spiritual holism is God. In other words, perhaps God permitted complications to happen in that relationship to simply remind you that all your really need is Him and a happier you. The intensity of study and vigor for your career and profession was pushed to a threshold, so that anything you will encounter while working in your field will seem simple. It brings to mind a surgeon who is well studied and bears a wealth of experience, when he or she encounters an emergency in the operating room, under the stress of urgency they simply perform the task without shaking or without fear, because at some point during training, the doctor had been pushed to a place of threshold. Being pushed during their training, the doctor is aware of the complications, but knows that a simple strategy can fix it and remove the matter of emergency. The doctor is able to make the procedure look simple, only because of the years spent studying the complex. You should be a master at dealing with complicated stuff by now, so open your mind and spirit and let God move you to a place where the simple will become your partner and friend.
Glossary Terms For Lecture

**The Apostle**
The word Apostle occurs 75 times in the bible, and is mentioned in 19 of the 27 books in the New Testament. The apostles of the scriptures were those who had been with Jesus from the beginning, they had a personal call from Christ, they were witnesses of the resurrection, they laid down foundational doctrines of the church, and they operated fully in all of the gifts spiritual gifts and the personality gifts.

**The Apostle’s Creed** - The Apostles’ Creed (Latin: Symbolism Apostolorum or Symbolum Apostolicum), sometimes titled the Apostolic Creed or the Symbol of the Apostles, is an early statement of Christian belief—a creed or "symbol". It is widely used by a number of Christian denominations for both liturgical and catechetical purposes.

**Breaking Bread** - Acts 2:42-46 describes the early church breaking bread as part of their fellowship: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." The early Christians came together regularly for common meals, which included the breaking of bread.

‘Assembly of the Saints’ in the Bible God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

**Virtual Reality** - the computer-generated simulation of a three-dimensional image or environment that can be interacted with in a seemingly real or physical way by a person using special electronic equipment, such as a helmet with a screen inside or gloves fitted with sensors.

**Traditionalism** - The decisions of dead people controlling the decisions of living people

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**Part-1**

**Chapter 2 and Apostles Creed Examination**

1. What does it mean for the Church to be on one accord? __________________________________________

2. Suddenly they heard a sound from heaven, which is an indication that in the book of Acts, going is moving the church to a place of __________ and then demonstration.

3. Name the two types of tongues that you can speak. ___________ and ___________. Name the difference between the two. __________________________________________________________

4. What are the 3 predominant emphasis of the Apostles Doctrine?
   God the ___________ God the ___________ God the ________________

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**Part-2**

**Chapter 2 and the Examination of Fellowship and Breaking Bread**

1. Why is it important for the church to fellowship after the pandemic?
   __________________________________________________________

2. What is it that you enjoy about worship through technology, and what is it that you enjoy about worship in the physical building? __________________________

3. What is the significance and Christ breaking bread, and the Apostles breaking bread?

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The Essential Need for Pentecostal Church Leadership

Tom Rainer reveals these 5 simple reasons as to why church are in decline or in need of solid leadership. With some exceptions, it is indeed more difficult to lead churches to growth.

Cultural Christianity

- Cultural Christianity is declining rapidly. In the past, many people felt it was culturally, economically, or politically advantageous to be a part of a congregation, even if they weren’t true believers in Christ. In other words, it is not neccessary to be connected to a church today to notice, included, or recognized.

The Builders Are Dying

- The exit of the Builder generation. The Builder generation has kept many churches alive, even if the congregations are on life support. This generation, born before 1946, is fiercely loyal to institutions, including local churches. They stuck with congregations in good and bad times. But, in 2015, there were only 28 million Builders left. Another 13,000 Builders die every week. The loyal generation is few in number and will soon be no more.

Millennial Love The Classic Church

However, consider this interesting research. Recent research from Barna Group and the Cornerstone Knowledge Network found that 67 percent of millennials prefer a “classic” church over a “trendy” one, and 77 percent would choose a “sanctuary” over an “auditorium.” While we have yet to warm to the word “traditional” (only 40 percent favor it over “modern”), millennials exhibit an increasing aversion to exclusive, closed-minded religious communities masquerading as the hip new places in town. Don’t feel the need to throw the baby out with the bath water. Be open for adjustments, but make certain the adjustments fit you.

City In-Rural Out

- Migration from rural areas and small towns to the cities. In 1790, only 5% of Americans lived in cities. By the 1960s, the percentage of Americans in cities skyrocketed to 65%. Today over 80% of Americans are city dwellers. Rural and small-town churches held on tenaciously to their members for over two centuries. But the population base for those tenacious churches has dwindled dramatically.

Church Hopping

- Faster church transfers. Those who are transferring from one church to another are concentrating in fewer churches. Simply stated, a few churches are getting bigger at the expense of smaller churches. While that phenomenon has been in play for quite a while, it is now accelerating. The old barrier that held people in specific churches – family connections, denominational loyalty, and loyalty to a specific congregation – are no longer barriers today. People move with great freedom from church to church.

We Shall Not Be Moved

- Slow response to change as change accelerates all around us. Many churches are incredibly slow to change. For most of our American history, the pace of cultural and technological change was sufficiently paced for churches to lag only five to ten years. Now churches are lagging 20 and 30 years as the pace of change increases dramatically. To many attendees and members, the church thus seems increasingly irrelevant. To be clear, I am speaking about issues of style, methodology, and awareness, not changing doctrine or biblical truths.