

The Ten Fingers: Delivering the Word of God Alive!
Summary by Jean S. Wilund of a Teaching by James M. “Buck” Hatch

**Keep a firm grip on God’s Word,
and deliver it active and alive, not dry as dust!**

“Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”

~ 2 Corinthians 4:1-2

1. Mercy -- “as we have received mercy”

God saw me in my miserable state and had mercy on me. Every good thing in my life, I have only by the gracious mercy of God towards me.

1 Peter 1:3, Hebrews 4:16, Psalm 86:5, Luke 6:36

Opposite: Attitude of “I’m holier than thou!” & “Thank God I’m not like that sinner.”

2. Servant – “since we have this ministry”

The Greek word for “ministry” comes from the word that means servant. We are to be a bond-slave of Christ, not *lords* over others.

2 Corinthians 4:5, Matthew 20:26, Mark 10:43-45, Philippians 2:3-5, Galatians 5:13

Opposite: Attitude of an Executioner or Accuser, hitting others over the head with the Bible.

3. Spirit – “since we have this ministry”

What ministry? The ministry of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:3-8)

A spirit-filled servant of God makes this Book alive.

2 Corinthians 3:17, Zechariah 4:6, Galatians 6:16-25

Opposite: Walking in our own strength and just head knowledge.

4. Triumph – “we do not lose heart”

We thank God that He *always* leads us in triumph. We never give up. No matter how hard it gets, we never stop believing in the power of God and His Word.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10, 2 Corinthians 2:13-14, 2 Corinthians 4:7-18, Isaiah 40:31, Hebrews 3:17

Opposite: In unbelief, we give up and quit trusting God and His Word.

5. Brokenness – “but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame”

We renounce and turn away from all hidden and unconfessed sin in our lives, living open and bare before the Lord with all humility. We come to God’s Word, not as perfect *people*, but with a perfect *heart*, humbly broken before the Lord of all hidden sin and rebellion.

Proverbs 28:13, Psalm 32:3-5, Psalm 51:17, Isaiah 57:15, Romans 3:10, 1 John 1:9

Opposite: Living with secret sin, refusing to turn from it or confess it.

- 6. Simplicity** – “*not walking in craftiness*”
 We approach and share God’s Word without trickery or manipulation or using slick marketing in an attempt to make God’s Word seem more appealing. We’re not concerned with being “seeker friendly,” but rather in letting the simplicity of God’s Word reach hearts and accomplish what God sends it out to accomplish.
Hebrews 4:12, 2 Corinthians 1:12, Isaiah 55:11, Isaiah 40:8, Isaiah 46:10
Opposite: Slick manipulation and trickery in reading and sharing God’s Word
- 7. Faithfulness** – “*or adulterating the word of God*”
 We don’t add to or take away anything from God’s Word, corrupting it or changing it. We treat it faithfully and honestly, leaving it in its pure form.
John 17:17, Psalm 12:6, 19:7-9, 33:4, John 8:32, Proverbs 30:5-6, Rev. 22:18-19
Opposite: Attitude of “It’s God’s Word plus...”
- 8. Clarity** – “*but by the manifestation of truth*”
 The word *manifest* means to make something clearly known. We approach and teach God’s Word in a way that it can be understood by anyone.
Romans 1:19, Nehemiah 8:8, Habakkuk 2:2, Matthew 13:19, Luke 24:27, 45
Opposite: Attitude of being academically elite; lofty speech; confusion
- 9. Personal** – “*commending ourselves*”
 The word *commend* means to “place alongside” or “to introduce yourself.” As we approach and teach God’s Word, we do so in a personal, not business-like, manner. We come alongside each other to learn God’s Word in a real and personal way. It’s living and active, not a dead and stale document.
1 Thessalonians 2:6-11, 2 Timothy 2:24, Philemon 1:8-9, Philippians 1:7
Opposite: Treating God’s Word in an impersonal and business-like way.
- 10. Conscience** – “*commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.*”
 We approach and deliver God’s Word with our conscience. We appeal to every man’s conscience – *right vs. wrong*. Sin is a moral issue. If our conscience is dead, we’re blind to the moral issue, and God’s Word appears dead and powerless in our lives.
Romans 2:15, Proverbs 3:5-6, 1 Timothy 1:19, 1 Timothy 4:1-2, Titus 1:9-15
Opposite: Approaching God’s Word with human reason, intellect, and emotions.

In Summary:

Always approach God’s Word remembering His **mercy** towards you, His **servant**, who filled with His **Spirit**, will always **triumph** as you live in humble **brokenness** before Him, and, embracing the **simplicity** of the gospel with all **faithfulness**, teach God’s Word with **clarity**, commending yourself in a genuine and **personal** manner, to every man’s **conscience** in the sight of God, and **His Word will always prove active & alive!**

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” ~ Hebrews 4:12