

FOLLOW ME
Part IV

September 4, 2011
Pastor Gerald McGinnis

All of us have had heroes, idols, role models - someone we look to for inspiration and direction in life, ex; an athlete, Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods, Kobe Bryant, or a musician like Bono, Beyoncé, Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber and there are actors or actresses like Tom Hanks, Brad Pitt, Miley Cyrus, Angelina Jolie, George Clooney, Will Smith, or successful business person as Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Warren Buffet, or maybe a politician like Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton.

When I was young my hero was Mickey Mantle, no not Mickey Mouse! Mickey Mantle played for the New York Yankees **#7**. 1951-1968 (**18 seasons**) 536 home runs, life time batting average .298. He was one of the greatest switch hitters in the history of baseball, who became an alcoholic.

As I grew older it was obvious I would never be Mickey Mantle and my role models changed from those persons who today I have very little respect for. Many professional people will quickly confess, "I do not want to be a role model," but they do want fame and money without any moral responsibility.

But Jesus said, "Follow me!"

John 21:22(NIV)

²² Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." (Rumor was Jesus said John would never die)

Paul said;

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)

¹ Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Jesus commands it and Paul emphasizes it.

John 21:22 (NKJV)

²² Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? **You follow Me.**"

What does it mean **to follow Jesus**, what does that look like?

1. Stop comparing yourself with others. That will drive you crazy.

2 Corinthians 10:12(NIV) ¹² We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

Two things to write down;

A. Stop looking at what you do not have and start looking at what you do have.

B. Stop thinking and talking about who you are not and start thinking and talking about who you are.

Let's look at the first

A. Stop looking at what you do not have and start looking at what you do have.

Psalms 121:1-2 (NIV)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Colossians 3:2 (NIV)

² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are

not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

Psalm 73 (NIV)

¹ Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. ² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. ³ For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ⁴ They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. ⁵ They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills. ⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. ⁷ From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits. ⁸ They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression. ⁹ Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. ¹⁰ Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance. ¹¹ They say, "How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?" ¹² This is what the wicked are like— always free of care, they go on amassing wealth. ¹³ Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. ¹⁴ All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments. ¹⁵ If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. ¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply ¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. ¹⁸ Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. ¹⁹ How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! ²⁰ They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies. ²¹ When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, ²² I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. ²³ Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. ²⁷ Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. ²⁸ But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.