

Steps to Solution for a Critical Spirit

Barry G. Johnson, Sr. / www.barryjohnsonsr.com

Walking Christian on Critical Spirit / Job

Exploring the ways to solve a critical spirit and walk Christian.



IV. STEPS TO SOLUTION

(Proverbs 13:18). (Proverbs 14:3).

A. Key Verse to Memorize

(Colossians 4:6)

- To _____ enhanced enjoyment in all your relationships
- To _____ your wounded relationships by speaking healing, grace-filled words

Steps to Solution for a Critical Spirit

- To _____ the accidental “slip of the tongue” and the use of caustic, critical words
- To _____ your reputation and keep it from being spoiled

(Matthew 5:13)

B. Key Passage to Read

James 3:1–12

- James 3:5 says ...
- _____—*like a small bit, turning a huge horse.*, v. 3
- _____—*like a small rudder, steering a massive ship.*, v. 4
- _____—*like a tiny spark, igniting a great forest fire.*, v. 5
- _____—*like a searing fire, burning the whole body.*, v. 6
- _____—*like an evil force, instigated by hell*, v. 6
- _____—*like a restless evil, full of deadly poison*, v. 8
- _____—*like a two-faced hypocrite, both praising and cursing others.*, v. 10
- _____—*like a flowing spring, embittered by salt water*, v. 11
- _____—*like a fig tree bearing olives—like a grapevine bearing figs*, v. 12

(Proverbs 16:2)

- _____ to become critical?
 - _____ do I give when I’m being critical?
 - _____ when I’m being critical?
 - _____ a critical attitude ...
- When I’m around certain people (family, friends, coworkers, acquaintances, neighbors)?

Who: _____

Steps to Solution for a Critical Spirit

— When I'm required to go to unpleasant places?

Where: _____

— When I must engage in undesirable activities (social, work, recreational)?

What: _____

— When I feel unsettling sensations (anger, fear, frustration, grief, embarrassment, disgust, impatience)?

Which one(s): _____

— When I have been unjustly treated (disrespected, ignored, misquoted, insulted)?

How: _____

— When I think about those who are unlike me (educationally, physically, socially, racially, politically, spiritually)?

Who: _____

— When I talk about controversial issues (political, religious, moral, or personal convictions)?

Which one(s): _____

• **Why do I have a critical spirit** toward these people, places, or situations?

• _____ your crops of criticism to someone spiritually mature who is able to support you in making godly changes.

• _____ the help of an accountability partner in making two lists: first, those whom you need to forgive and second, those from whom you need to ask forgiveness.

• _____ your resolve to ask forgiveness of others and to extend forgiveness to others.

• _____ your thought life in light of God's Word.

• _____ into an agreement with God to allow His Word to "sift out" your critical spirit.

• _____ all thoughts that do not pass through God's scriptural grid.

• _____ your critical thinking for God's correct thinking....

Steps to Solution for a Critical Spirit

(Philippians 4:8)

(Acts 20:24)

Reaching the Target: Transformation!

Target #1—A New Purpose: God’s purpose for me is to be conformed to the character of Christ.

(Romans 8:29).

Target #2—A New Priority: God’s priority for me is to change my thinking.

(Romans 12:2).

Target #3—A New Plan: God’s plan for me is to rely on Christ’s strength, not my strength, to be all He created me to be.

(Philippians 4:13 ESV).

My Personalized Plan

(Colossians 1:27);

(Philippians 2:1–2)

Changing a Critical Heart to a Caring Heart

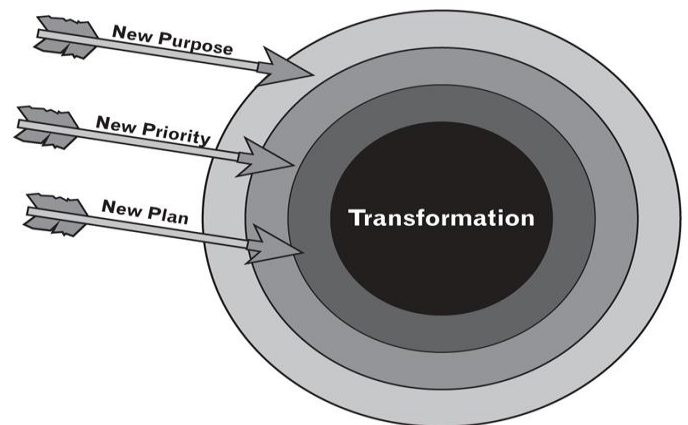
• A caring heart sees _____

(Psalm 139:23–24).

• A caring heart has _____

(Colossians 3:12).

• A caring heart draws _____



Steps to Solution for a Critical Spirit

- _____: “Are you saying ...? Is that what you said?”
- _____: “It sounds as if you feel....”
- _____: “I’m not sure I understand what you are saying....”
- _____: “Is there more?... What else do you feel?”
- _____: “What would be meaningful to you?”

(Proverbs 20:5).

- **A caring heart offers** _____

(Romans 14:1, 3).

- **A caring heart sees** _____

(Luke 12:6–7).

- **A caring heart praises** _____

(James 3:17).

- **A caring heart doesn’t wound** _____

(Colossians 3:16).

- **A caring heart sees** _____

(Philippians 4:19).

- **A caring heart relies** _____

(1 Corinthians 2:13).

(Proverbs 13:13)

- _____ your relationship a priority over your need to always be right.

(1 Corinthians 6:7).

- _____ a heart willing to understand the other person’s perspective. Be willing to change where necessary and to heal any relational tension.

Steps to Solution for a Critical Spirit

(Romans 12:18).

- _____ carefully, even if you disagree with the other person's opinion. Give yourself time to consider what the other person says before you respond.

(James 1:19).

- _____ with humility. Release your reputation to God and ask Him to help you with your relationships.

(1 Peter 5:6).

- _____ those who confront you as being gifts from God. Flattery builds your pride, but confrontation helps you grow in the Lord.

(Proverbs 27:6).

- _____ dignity and discernment. Allow God to speak to you through the other person. Your confronter may be someone who can help you overcome your critical attitudes. Even if you do not agree with your confronter, God may still use this opportunity for you to esteem the confronter for both the courage displayed in confronting you and for the value placed on your relationship.

(Proverbs 15:32).

- _____ the counsel of your confronter without being defensive or reactive. God may be using this person to help you grow closer to Him. The benefits of confrontation may include coming closer to God, living a more loving lifestyle, and growing more intimate with your confronter.

(Proverbs 29:1).

When You Don't Want to Be a "Know-It-All" ...

Question: "What should I do if I usually know the correct answers but I don't want a 'know-it-all' reputation?"

(Proverbs 29:20)