

My Walk Through Christianity With Jesus

By Jan van der Kooij

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Introduction

In writing this book, my goal was not to write one more how-to guide for the Christian walk, but rather to simply encourage you with my story, the story of an ordinary boy living an extraordinary life with Jesus. I pray that God will use my story to encourage and bless you.

14 years old: The beginning

I will always remember the day it all began for me, my journey with Him whom I call Master and Friend.

I was a young high school student in Delft when a group of young people from Youth for Christ (YFC) came and presented a drama followed by discussion groups. Their presentation interested me; I made an appointment to visit their local representative.

The young man I met with was named Jaap Zevenbergen. I will never forget what an impact he had on my life (writing this I feel tears coming up). For the first time in my young life I met a male who was a Christian and connected to a Christian club, but who was not pushy about his Christianity. He was just a normal guy who would talk to me about movies and sports and who wanted to be my friend - even after I told him I had been breaking into their place and stealing food from them.

Was this man for real? I asked myself.

Because Jaap modeled Jesus' compassion, love, and grace, I had no doubt that he had only good intentions towards me.

After meeting with Jaap a few times, I went to YFC's coffee bar, a casual place for people to hang out and get to know one another. I met some more people there who would come to have a major impact on my life, some of whom are still a part of my life today.

The group of friends I had at the time I met Jaap were not what you would call Christ-like; then again, neither was I. Rather, we were a group of kids who used to abuse each other for our own satisfaction. I desperately wanted my dad's approval, and turned to unhealthy relationships with male and female friends to try to find that approval. Of course, these destructive relationships left me feeling even more empty and confused, and angry at the world. Oftentimes I was so unhappy that I wished I was dead.

To meet a true friend who gave me attention without selfish motives was a new experience for me. As Jaap modeled Jesus to me, it also began to change my image of Father God. He truly fulfilled Jesus' words in John 14:9: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." Up until that time, my view of God was that He was an enforcer of rules and regulations and ready to punish you harshly if you didn't obey.

My grandfather's death about 6 months before I met Jaap had also had a big impact on my view of God. Because I spent my summers living with my grandparents, my grandfather and I were very close. After suffering a stroke, he spent a year in the hospital in great pain and just wanting to die. The only time I visited him in the hospital that year, he begged me to help him die because he was in so much pain. I didn't visit him anymore after that because it was just too hard to see him suffer. I could not understand why the hospital was so determined to keep him alive when he was ready to die. More than that, I didn't understand why God was allowing my loving grandfather, a great man of God, to endure such pain. What must God be like to allow someone to suffer like that?

Obviously, for me to see God as completely loving and merciful was a lesson that I didn't just easily accept the first

time someone read the words to me from the Bible. However, because Jaap and my new group of friends from the coffee bar modeled God's love to me by their lives, I soon made Jesus the Lord of my life. Since that time, my relationship with God has continued to deepen over the years. I had no idea in those early years that it was possible for a man to be so in love with Jesus and have such a powerful friendship as I have with Him today. Not a day goes by that we don't talk together and share our feelings with one another.

During this time of committing my life and future into the hands of God, I met a girl at my church named Corien Kuyvenhoven (now it is Corien van der Kooij ☺). We first became friends and started going to a YFC Bible study together. Soon we began a dating relationship.

My time in YFC was a very formative time in my life. I started to see the Kingdom of God as a group of broken people, and that the truth for all of us, no matter what our background and past, is found in His teachings. My journey as a Jesus-lover began during that time and has been an exciting ride ever since.

The most confusing part about Christianity for me during this time was that I saw so much conflict and division among churches. Because of some differing opinions, my parents left the church I had grown up in and started going to a new church. Trying to keep everyone happy, I started going to the new church one week and to my old church the next. The way I saw it, both churches preached the same message, just packaged a little differently.

To be honest I have seen parts of Jesus revealed to me in all of the different denominations. I remember seeing the musical Jesus Christ Superstar in the Catholic Church, an eye-opening

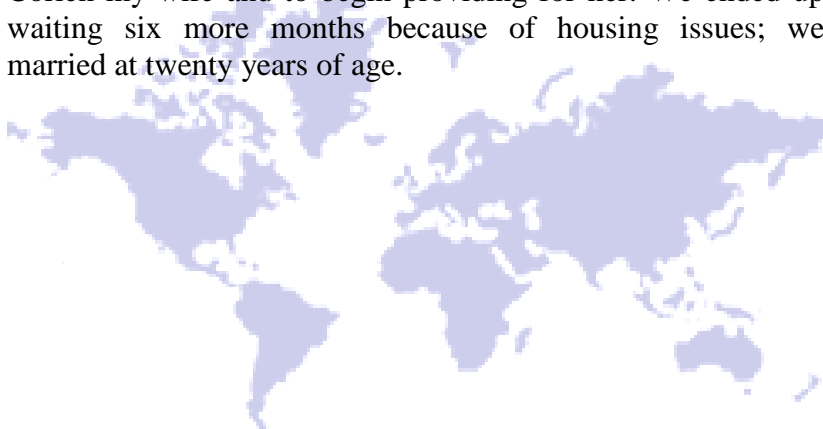
experience that showed me that Jesus was a real person with feelings, temptations, etc. With its rich history of bible teachers, the Protestant church taught me to study the bible and to ask questions. The evangelical church taught me to be open-minded and to experience God in my emotions. Each of these churches has its place; therefore I don't understand why they always seem to be at war with one another.

After two years, I went back to solely attending the church I had grown up in. The pastor of the church, an older man named Griffioen, taught me a lot about what it means to be a follower of Jesus and what it looks like to live that out. I also learned a lot through attending Bible studies and through fellowshiping with people my age. Through all of these things, I started to gain a better understanding of who God is and what He is about. Corien and I also did our confirmation together during that time.

In 1985, I joined the army and asked to be stationed in Israel so that my time would be for the good of that country. Instead, they decided to send me to Germany, one of the last countries I would have chosen. I still had the idea in my head that they were the enemy because of what had happened in the Second World War. However, God had a very specific plan for me in that assignment: He wanted to change my heart and teach me to love those I thought were the enemy, and to walk out love and grace instead of just having knowledge *about* these qualities. During that year in Germany, God gave me a sincere love for the German people that I still have to this day. I learned that it is not for us to hold others responsible for the sins and mistakes of their forefathers. I don't even want God to remember the mistakes I've made in the last hour, much less to blame me for the sins of past generations!

After I completed my time in the army, I returned to Holland and resumed working with Youth for Christ. The leaders of YFC at this time were a couple named Hans and Margreet Klop. They were an amazing couple, full of love and grace for others rather than judgment and condemnation. The purity of their love and grace was something I had never experienced before.

During this time, one thing began to increasingly consume my mind: to marry Corien and start my own family. I was young, only nineteen years old at the time, but I was anxious to make Corien my wife and to begin providing for her. We ended up waiting six more months because of housing issues; we married at twenty years of age.



Well, I was twenty years old, married to my best friend of five years, and living in a very cozy house. Sounds like the beginning of a rather ordinary life, right? Not exactly!

As soon as we were settled in, we started to ask ourselves, “What now? What are we heading towards?” For five years, all we had dreamed about was getting married and living together. Now that we had accomplished that dream, we realized that we needed more of a plan for our future together.

We both wanted take a year to serve God full-time through volunteer work, so we began looking for an organization that could use the two of us.

We ended up joining the Youth with a Mission (YWAM) program in the Netherlands. Our school leaders were Chris and Annerie Doornweerd, who are good friends of ours to this day - a surprising fact considering all they had to put up with from me! Until this program, I had no idea I had such a rebellious spirit in me.

One of the things I struggled with the most was submitting to my work leader in the garage. Because I was a trained mechanic and he was not, I had a hard time with him trying to tell me how to do my job. One day I walked out of the workshop and told them that they needed to either let me run the garage or find me a different job. Well, the end of that story is that I *did* go back to the workshop until the end of my training school, and I did *not* lead the workshop. 😊

Up until this point, I had only been exposed to churches that either were not charismatic at all or were on the opposite end of the spectrum: “charasmaniacs.” Finding myself part of an

organization that was introducing John Wimber and the Vineyard model of church in the Netherlands just proves that God has a sense of humor! Before I finished my year of schooling, I found myself speaking in tongues, praying for the sick, prophesying, and loving the Vineyard approach to church. Our families were not used to these things, either, so you can just imagine the kinds of discussions we had during visits.

After our year with YWAM, we went back to our home town to lead the Youth for Christ ministry there. One of our biggest immediate challenges was losing the building we had been renting very cheaply from the municipality. What looked like an early end to this ministry was really the beginning of a new plan God was birthing, a grand new adventure.

I remember telling Corien one Saturday morning that God had shown me some property in the center of town that was for sale. It was to be a new center for the YFC to have their coffee bar, the evangelical churches to have their meetings, and possibly even to have a Christian bookstore someday. I also already knew who I needed to talk to about the money to buy the property. Corien thought the idea was a little bit over the edge, which was all the more reason for me to believe it was a plan made in heaven and could be worked out with His blessing here on earth!

So off I went on my bike to talk to a man I had met only once about how to acquire half a million dollars. Teun invited me to his office where we talked and prayed together. Afterwards, he asked me to show him the property. As soon as we stepped onto the property, he told me to go to the real state agent and tell them they had a buyer. Teun, a businessman, had recently set aside half a million to support missions and saw this as the project he wanted to contribute to!

The next four years were a whirlwind: our three children Tim, Lisan, and Jerina were born. Corien was pregnant through most of the time that the evangelical center was being renovated and the trust set up. Life was exciting as many dreams were coming true for us; however, so many things happening all at the same was a lot to handle. Because I did not always have my priorities right, it was a difficult time for Corien. I remember her asking me one day if I had time in my schedule to have the baby. I had become involved in too many things. A friend told me during that time, “Jan if you do what you’re not supposed to do, you take away something someone else was supposed to do.” I found it to be an interesting thought, and later on found it to be biblical as well:

Eph. 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

What great news to know that all God expects of us is to simply obey! We don’t have to go out searching for what to do or where to go; He’ll show us what He wants and our job is just to listen and be obedient.

I was also learning that I do not need to work to earn other’s approval – or God’s! He loves me based not on what I do or what others think of me, but just because I’m His son. This is the greatest truth I have ever learned since inviting Christ to be Lord of my life.

What rest these truths brought into my life. Every time I began to get stressed, I would ask myself, “Am I involved in the right things, or am I doing things He hasn’t called me to do? Am I merely giving in to other’s expectations? Have I disobeyed Him somewhere along the way?”

Of course, I still overdid it at times. One of those times, for example, was when my daughter Lisan, 9 years old at the time, had a terrible accident. She and my youngest daughter Jerina were having a contest to see who could lean out farthest over the balcony. Lisan lost her balance and fell, crashing through the floor to the next level. Corien saw her first and thought she was dead. Both of her wrists were broken, her head was black and swollen from where she had landed on it, and there was blood everywhere. Doctors said it was a miracle that she hadn't cracked her skull.

Although my daughter had almost died on Friday, by Monday I was back at work. Two weeks later, however, I found myself sitting in the doctor's office. All the stress had aggravated some pre-existing health conditions, causing high blood pressure and other stress-related problems. The doctor told me that I needed to take some time off work to process and recover from Lisan's accident.

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25: The calming years.

The recent events in my life, as well as the spiritual truths I was learning, caused me to really examine my life and all the things I was busy doing. Ephesians 2:10 soon became my life philosophy:

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

I decided to end my involvement with the evangelical center I believed God had instructed me to set, turning over the leadership to someone else. Corien and I began to really enjoy being parents and being a part of our church. I also very much enjoyed my new job as trouble shooter for a company who installed climate control units and heating systems.

From time to time we asked the church leadership if they thought it was the right time for us to begin mission work. For 4 years they said no. We came to a place of peace with the idea of not going back into missions.

It was and still is such a joy to watch our children grow. I have loved all their stages of growth from birth to the present (ages 17, 16 and 14). We made good friends in our church and the idea of going into missions was fading away. We were getting more involved in church: small group, leading teenagers, etc. Our lives were pleasant and we lived fairly close to our family and friends. We were really blessed: our kids were beautiful and healthy, and we had a group of friends we could laugh and cry with. What more could we ask for?

At the end of 1994, Corien and I went away for a weekend to spend some time together and to seek God for our future. We

used to do this once in a while just to make sure we were still in the center of His will.

Honestly I didn't want to go into missions anymore at this point because I knew missions would end my dream of having my own business and getting the Porsche 911 I'd always wanted (I have since asked for one in heaven).

You can probably guess what we decided that weekend, though! Corien had been reading a book during this time by Keith Green's wife Melody, about his death (along with two of their young children) in an airplane accident near their home. Melody's story was an inspirational and timely reminder to Corien about the importance of being in the middle of God's will (little did we know that only six months later, we would coincidentally end up living only five miles from where Keith Green's story took place).

We talked a lot that weekend and agreed that God was calling us back to full-time ministry. We discussed it with the church leadership, who finally agreed that this was the right time for us to begin doing mission work. We did some more interviews, and took a test to determine what areas we were most gifted in. Then in February of 1995, Corien and I packed up our family and moved to Van, Texas in the USA to work with Mercy Ships, a global charity that brings health care and the hope of Jesus to the poor in port areas all over the world.

This was a tough decision for me in many ways. I have always been an old-fashioned daddy in that I feel a huge sense of responsibility to provide for my family; and now, at twenty-nine years of age, I was responsible not only for myself and my wife, but also for the provision and well-being of my three small children. It was also difficult to leave my good job

behind - I was in position to take over the company I was working for - and step out in faith that God would provide for us.



29: The adventure continues

What a big step giving up our home, job, family, friends, church, etc. and moving all the way to America!

For six months we stayed in our little home in Van, Texas, and enjoyed every bit of it. I worked in the maintenance department at the Mercy Ships headquarters, until there was an urgent call from the Anastasis (one of the hospital ships) for a mechanic. The vehicles were in desperate need of repair as they had received no maintenance work for quite some time. We knew it was God who was calling and so we packed up again and left for Denmark. We boarded Anastasis in Esbjerg and sailed to Latvia for a short outreach. From there we sailed to the following countries: Germany, Norway, England, France, Spain, Togo, South Africa, Madagascar and Holland. I often had to travel off the ship to where the vehicles were located, which took me to Benin and Ghana as well.

Working with Mercy Ships was a great experience. We witnessed people who had been blind see again, and people with misshapen faces look more normal again. Our kids enjoyed ship life as there were more or less fifty kids on board to become friends with!

This was also the context where my philosophy about Christian work and missions was shaken and formed. Through my experienced, I came to believe that we are to walk as Jesus did, doing the things that He did, and in the simplest way possible.

Now on a ship, and in any situation where you work with people, there need to be rules, of course. Rules and boundaries

are there to make it possible to work in an orderly way. This is the opposite of chaos, which is how the world looked after sin entered the world and before God intervened. Ship life is similar to marine life: there is a captain and there are officers; there are specific procedures you have to follow coming into and leaving the harbor, etc.

If I had known at that time that some structure in my life and ministry was good for me, then I would have been easier to live with in those years on board of the Annastasis.

After two years living on the Annastasis, we left the ship when it docked in Den Helder in the Netherlands.

From there we moved onto the Youth With A Mission base called Heidebeek in the city of Heerde to be house parents. We lived with about fifty people in the student staff home. As an extrovert, I found it fun and energizing to be around people 24/7, while for Corien, it was very draining.

Because of this difference and others, working together was not always easy for Corien and I, and we eventually concluded that working together so closely was not for us! We discovered that we are two individuals with unique gifts and personalities that are not always easy to join together in both work and home life.

Although we had some tough times at Heidebeek, it was overall a good experience. I loved being surrounded by young people and being able to speak into their lives and share in their adventure with God! Being able to pray with and for young people and help them along in their journey is like being a father to them for a little while, which is what I enjoy the most in life – being a father. My three kids are my greatest joy, and

I considerate it a privilege worth dying for to be able to care for them during this season of their lives.

In the time at Heidebeek we also found a close church family again. One of my best friends Chris was part of the leadership and we felt at home there.

One thing during this time that brought me to a new level of ministry was reconciling with my father. He and I had always had a good but not deep relationship. When my grandmother died, he called me and asked me if we could talk. When he came into the room, I knew something great was about to happen. With tears in his eyes, he asked me if I would forgive him for the mistakes he had made when I was young. We cried and prayed together, and spoke out forgiveness to each other. What freedom I felt after healing and reconciling with my father. God was up to something, that was for sure!

After this, when Corien and I were going through a 3-month YWAM counseling course in Switzerland, a lot of things from the past resurfaced. However, because of the healing and reconciliation that had taken place between my dad and I, I was finally able to put some things to rest, and a sense of order came into my life.

After finishing our Counseling School classes and having made it through our relationship struggles at Heidebeek, Corien and I felt a lot wiser and experts on the whole relationship thing...at least that is what we thought. ☺

Soon after we finished counseling school, YWAM asked us to move to Jeffreys Bay, South Africa to oversee a building project that was in the works.

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36: The frustration of ministry

In September 2001, we once again moved our family, this time to the sunny southern coast of South Africa. One of the first things I did was I found a nearby Vineyard church and asked the pastor to mentor me. This ended up being the best thing I have done for my spiritual life since I became a Christian 21 years ago. I would need his fellowship and guidance through the adjustments and lessons ahead.

In South Africa, I was confronted with a culture I couldn't and didn't want to understand. Stealing and lying had been a regular part of my old life; here it was such a normal part of the culture that they told us to get used to it! I could not accept this, because the culture I allow myself to be formed by now is the Kingdom culture - not a culture full of the things I saw all around me. Thanks to the patience of mentors and friends, I have learned to live with the culture here without accepting the bad things in it.

After three years waiting to see if the culture on the working floor would change, we decided it was time to leave YWAM. It was a very difficult to leave the ministry we had been working with for so long.

We started working for a church to support the leaders and to get some rest from the past experience.

What initially looked like a fulltime position working in a church setting soon took me back into charity work with an organization called "The Joshua Project," a Christian non-government organization that works with kids on the street and those from dysfunctional families.

As a church we were asked to provide some mentoring to the leaders of the school at The Project; it turned out to be a fulltime job. At this moment, I am forty years of age and busy doing a study through the internet with Vineyard Bible Institute, once again learning and being transformed in my thinking. I would not want to have skipped any of the steps I have taken; I just would have loved to know a long time ago some of the things that I know now, so that I wouldn't have hurt so many people through my many learning curves.

What follows now are some of the lessons I've learned over the years, which I hope, together with the story you just read, will help you on your journey.



Epilogue: What grace has taught me

Rom. 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you

Rom. 11:6 And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

Where would I be without grace? Have you ever asked yourself this question? There would be no place on this planet where I would find rest for my soul if there was no grace. As a new Christian, I struggled to understand the verse

Matt. 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

What a lofty command! How could I ever reach this point of perfection? It seemed like an impossible feat, and such a heavy burden. Dr. Griffioen, my Bible teacher at that time, explained to me that the verse means that we should do whatever we can to become perfect; not that we'll ever reach that point, but that we are to just give it our best. What a relief it was for me that God knows we won't ever reach that standard, and that's OK – He just wants us to try our best to be like Him!

As a Dutch person I am blessed with a strong feeling for righteousness (it's no surprise that the U.N. International Court of Justice is in The Hague!). Why do I call this a blessing? Because

Matt. 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

As you can see, there is a place within Christianity for the strength of the Dutch people. However, I was a little out of balance and quite judgmental towards myself and others; I needed to have equal grace as well.

That is usually where things go wrong - when we start evaluating people and situations through our own eyes and emotions, instead of through God's eyes and His perspective.

There is nothing wrong with being hungry for righteousness, as long as it is with the right motives, and is not seeking to please self and hurt others. In my short life I have had to say sorry many times and have been depressed over how I have judged others.

Being on the judges' seat is not a good place to be, because there is only one who can take that seat and his name is not Jan. Another difficult part about this lesson is that the seed of judgment you sow will grow, and guess what your harvest will be? You will be judged by others. And who wants to live their life in that awful spot of constantly being evaluated and judged?

Prov. 3:34 He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.

The question in this proverb is "Where do I choose to stand – in the place of the prideful mocker, or in the place of the humble?" Personally, I want to be on the humble side where grace is given. There are so many verses in the Bible that esteem humility over pride. So for me, my choice is to humble myself. I have to consciously do this every day at least once, and will probably need to continue to do so for the rest of my life! I daily make this choice not only because it's what He wants from me, but also because pride is not very rewarding. Whether I liked it or not I had to deal with the issue of being judgmental and self-righteous and so God brought me into situations where I was challenged regarding this issue. First

there was the year I spent in Germany with the army; than there was the time in YWAM where I struggled to work under the untrained mechanic, etc. Every time I start to go the direction of pride, I lose my peace and start disliking myself and those around me; therefore, the choice to stay away from pride becomes easier every time.

The following verse is just to make this point more clear;

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth

From the moment I chose to become more like Him, grace was part of the package. Before you think “following this Christ is not for me,” let me tell you that it’s the best decision you can ever make. Have you ever read a story of a man’s life impacting as many people as the life of Jesus? He was and is the purest example of how to live a life that’s worth both living and dying.

How to know if a decision is in His will

There are a few steps I have learned over the years to test whether or not my plans are in His will. I will share them with you and give the Scriptures behind these steps, as well.

- ✠ We never took big steps on our own; we always consulted with others. And I never took any step without knowing that Corien was thinking in the same direction.

Prov. 12:15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

Prov. 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Prov. 20:18 Make plans by seeking advice; if you wage war, obtain guidance.

Our steps in leaving places of ministry have always been through times of praying and seeking advice from those in spiritual leadership over us. We have always let our church be the final say in whether we leave or stay. We also seek advice from our close friends as they are the ones who know us best and have our best interest in mind. There were times we thought we would never leave to serve in overseas missions because the elders said no multiple times. There have been times that I thought about switching positions or doing acts of spiritual warfare and friends who were also seeking God and studying the word said “no” or “not now.” What a tremendous blessing to have friends who love and care for you enough to show you tough love when you need it.

I am not saying that every decision we made was His plan and His will. However, I do know that the steps we took were

taken in a biblical way and that we were open to Him to change them.

Oftentimes when it comes to His will, we just don't know for sure no matter how much we pray and seek Him and seek out the wisdom of others. At this point, I think we just have to make the best decision we can, and trust Him to keep everything working for good. Sometimes it's only in looking back that we can see things more clearly, and get that confirmation that we have done what He wanted us to do. I may see it more clearly tomorrow, next month, or next year - or maybe not until after I die. In my field of work, if I can look back and see that people were blessed and that they drew closer to Christ, then I am confident that decision or ministry was His will.

Also, Corien and I have always tried to be obedient to the call that is on every person's life: to take care of the broken, poor, and needy. This is a call you don't have to seek God about, for He makes it clear in His word.

Deut. 15:11 There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

Deut. 24:14 Do not take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother Israelite or an alien living in one of your towns.

Caring for the poor doesn't necessarily mean you have to go to third world nations – people with needs are all around you if you open your eyes to see them and your heart to help them.

2 John 1:6 And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

I find this verse profound, that we can be part of His plan and fulfill His will simply through walking in love – the agape kind of love that seeks the good of others above one’s own needs and desires.



**When to start and when to
stop in ministry**

In my experience, it is time to stop a ministry when you have not seen any fruit for a long period of time. The main questions then are what constitutes 'fruit' and what is a long period of time? For me, fruit is that people are growing to become more like Jesus. A "long period of time" can be one day or 10 years, depending on what you are planning for. If your ministry is to grow a company from 10 employees making 1 million a year to a company with 100 employees making 1 billion a year, then you might come up with a 10 year plan. If after 10 years, you have not reached the goal, then it has probably been too long and it's time to come up with a new plan or some new ideas. However, if your goal is to see one friend come to Christ, then I would say that 10 years is way too long; perhaps a one - year would be more appropriate for that. It all depends on the scope of your plans. And planning is wise, because your time is valuable; you should be aware of that.

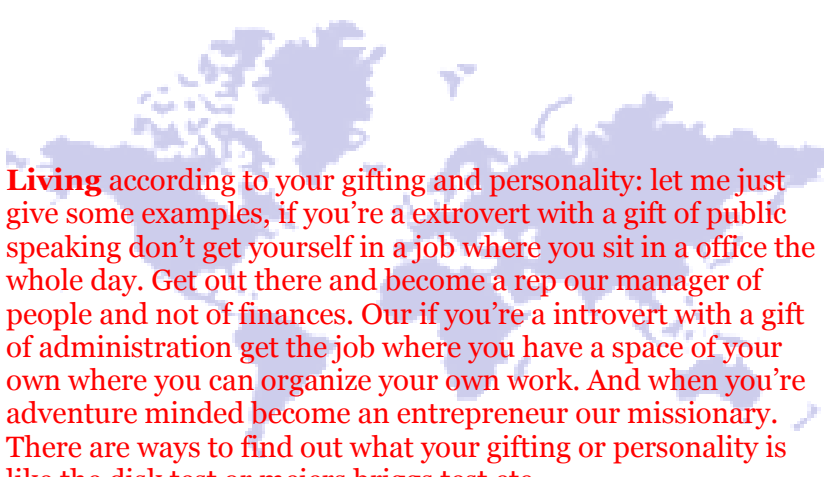
So my advice is to set some goals and begin working towards them; then every so often, check back to see if you are still on track towards your goals.

My plan is to see the world saved. ☺ But I have some short term goals, as well. My goals for the organization I'm serving at the moment is for us to be meeting our budget in 2006, doubling our budget in 2007, 15 full-time staff by 2008, and a new manager appointed in 2009 whom I can begin mentoring in 2008. I also have some smaller goals within the Joshua Project: to mentor 5 people on a regular basis, to see 25 kids served on a daily basis, and to begin a girl's class. My personal goals are also divided into long and short term goals. One of my long term goals is to go on a 6-month sabbatical with Corien in 2010, and one of my short term goals is to have the discipline to continue my Bible school studies and to finish 6 classes per year (last year I did 2).

This is a continuing story so I think I had better just stop now! If you have any questions about any of this, I encourage you to sit down with a friend and talk about it, or just ask God to give you direction. He is always there to help; that's why He sent His Holy Spirit to be your counselor.

I enjoyed sharing my journey with you. My prayer is that God will use these words – even words from an imperfect young Christian – to encourage and bless you.

The end



Living according to your gifting and personality: let me just give some examples, if you're an extrovert with a gift of public speaking don't get yourself in a job where you sit in an office the whole day. Get out there and become a rep or manager of people and not of finances. Or if you're an introvert with a gift of administration get the job where you have a space of your own where you can organize your own work. And when you're adventure minded become an entrepreneur or missionary. There are ways to find out what your gifting or personality is like the disk test or Myers-Briggs test etc.

It isn't always easy to live according to your gifts and personality. However, is it fulfilling? Yes very much so and I hope that you are also living your life using your gifting in every part of life. If Jesus comes and asks me what I did with my talents/gifting (however you call it) I want to be the one that doubled my talents at least.

