



# Individual Initiative

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Readiness and ability to be the one to start a course of action; the ability to begin and follow through with a plan or task; to move or advance against strong resistance.

**Noun**

an introductory act or step; leading action: to take the initiative in making friends. readiness and ability in initiating action; enterprise: one's personal, responsible decision: to act on one's own initiative



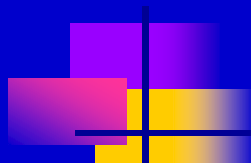
# *"Taking the initiative"*

## Is Demonstrating Personal Responsibility

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out *your own salvation* with *fear and trembling*. For it is *God which worketh in you* both to *will and to do* of his good pleasure.” Phil. 2:12; “...but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.” Isa. 66:2b

**We Many Times  
Have The Ability  
but  
Lack The Readiness  
and  
Determination  
To Follow Through**

# We Want To Study Individual Examples of Initiative

The logo for MANLP, featuring the word "MANLP" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters "MAN" are orange, and "LP" are white. A white upward-pointing arrow is integrated into the letter "L".

**MANLP**

# Joseph



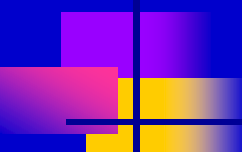
When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.  
**Mt. 27:57-60**



# Joseph – A Good Man

“And behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counselor; and he was a good man, and a just: (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them:) he was of Arimathea, a city of the Jews; who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.” Lk. 23:50-51

# He Was Before Afraid



**“And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.**

And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. John 19:38 - 41





# Fear Caused Many To Turn From Christ

**“For God hath not given  
us the spirit of fear; but  
of power, and of love,  
and of a sound mind.” 2  
Tim. 1:7**

Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. John 12:42-43

# But He Overcame His Fear & Initiated The Burial of Christ



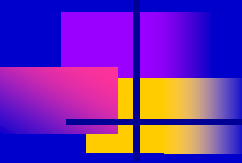
**And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.  
Mt. 10:28**

# Andrew



Brotherly  
love

One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone. John 1:40-42



*"He first findeth his own  
brother Simon.....and he  
brought him to Jesus"*

**We never know when we bring someone to  
Jesus, what they will become**

# Peter Became

**Apostle**

**Preacher**

**Elder**

**&**

**Gave his life for Christ**

**All of This Because a  
Brother Took the Initiative  
to Teach One of His Family**

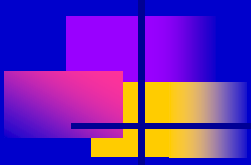
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# A Man's Foes Can Be Those of His Own Household but Not Always



And a man's foes shall be they  
of his own household. Mt 10:36

# Are We Bringing Our Relatives to Christ





# Lydia



. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

# Her Initiative Saved Her and Her Household



And when she was baptized,  
and her household, she  
besought us, saying, If ye  
have judged me to be  
faithful to the Lord, come  
into my house, and abide  
there. And she constrained  
us. Acts 16:15

# No Synagogue but Lydia Had Initiative



**“And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.” Acts 16:13**



# Many Women

- Take the initiative to serve others
- They take the initiative to bring their children to Bible classes
- Teach classes
- Take food to the sick
- Support preachers

# Aquila and Priscilla



And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. Acts 18:24-26



**They didn't go to the elders and ask  
*"them"*  
to talk to Apollos  
**They Did****

**They saw something that needed to be done and did it.**



# Results of Individual Initiative

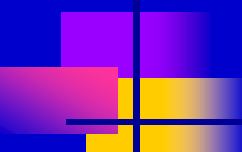
- Cease hiding and waiting on others
- We will do our own studying and thereby form our own convictions and establish our own faith
- We will feel an important part of the church – that much depends on me



# Results of Individual Initiative

- **We will do the work that we are capable of doing**
  - **I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) 1 Cor. 16:15**





# Will You Take The Individual Initiative and Become A Christian

**“And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying,  
Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Acts 2:40**