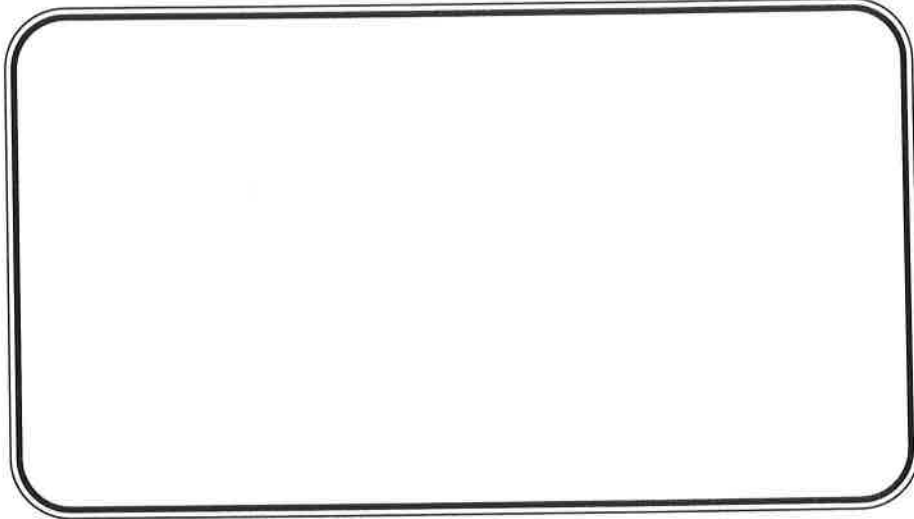


Rejection Letters

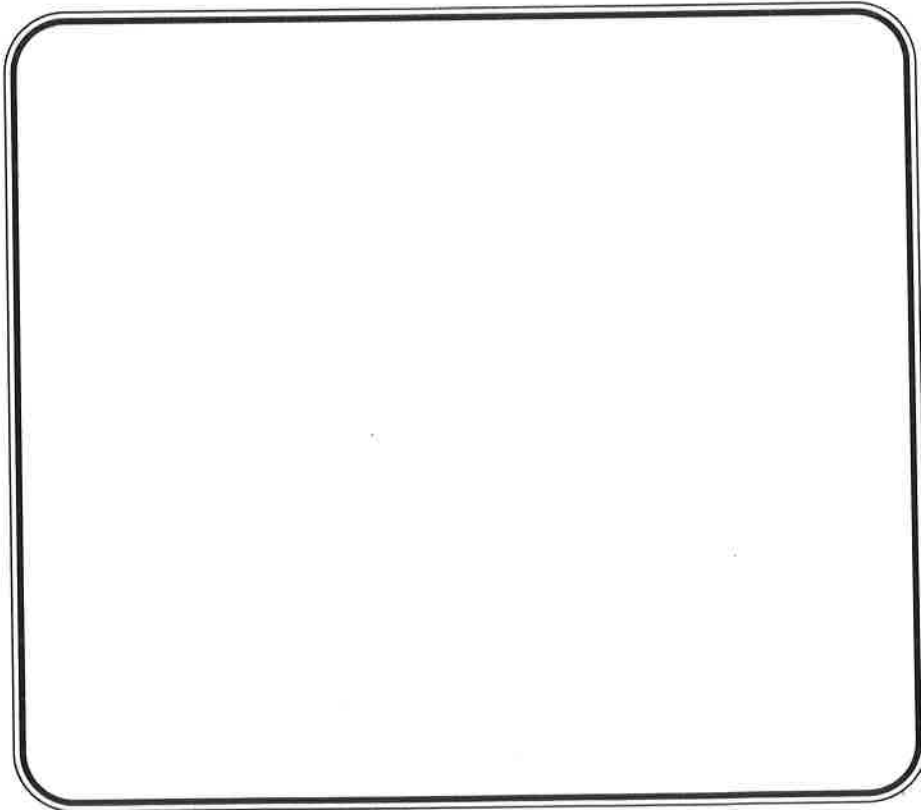
D-Fining Words

Write in the box the definition for each word.



D-Scriptions

In your own words, describe what you think each phrase means. How would you explain these phrases to a friend?



Letter of Intent

I, _____,

will renounce and reject wickedness and evil I see in my nation and the world, such as

by _____

I will also renounce and reject wickedness and evil I see in my community, my school, or my home, such as

by _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Words of Freedom

Step 1: Read each text.

Step 2: Read each text again. This time, circle words or phrases that you think relate to freedom.

Step 3: Read each text a third time. This time, underline words or phrases that you think relate to rules or discipline.

Let your love, God, shape my life with salvation, . . .
Don't ever deprive me of truth, not ever—
Your commandments are what I depend on. . . .
And I'll stride freely through wide open spaces
As I look for your truth and your wisdom;
Then I'll tell the world what I find,
Speak out boldly in public, unembarrassed.
I cherish your commandments—oh, how I love them!

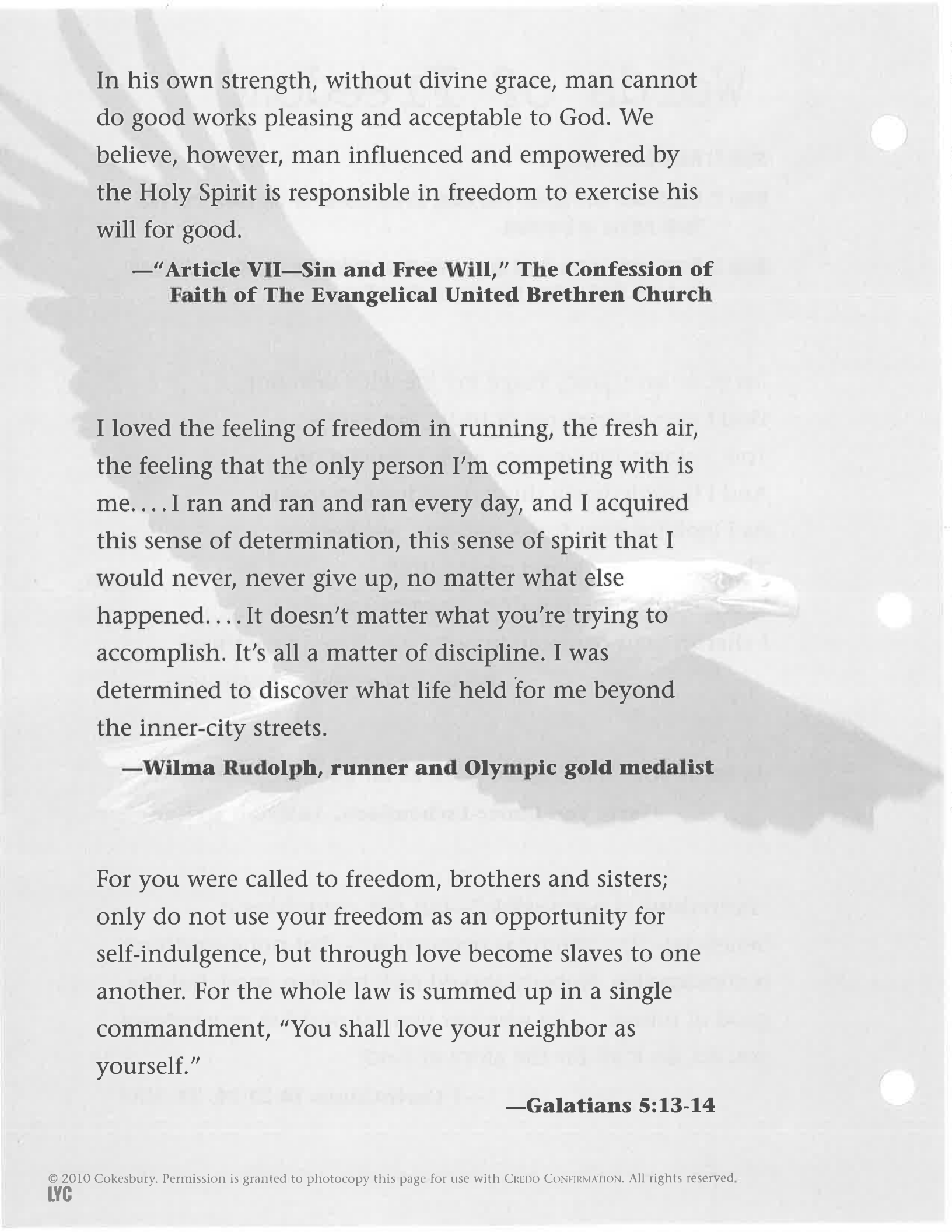
—**Psalm 119:41-48** (*THE MESSAGE*)

As far as your self-control goes, as far goes your freedom.

—**Marie Von Ebner-Eschenbach, Austrian writer**

“Everything is permissible”—but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible”—but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others. . . . So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

—**1 Corinthians 10:23-24, 31** (NIV)



In his own strength, without divine grace, man cannot do good works pleasing and acceptable to God. We believe, however, man influenced and empowered by the Holy Spirit is responsible in freedom to exercise his will for good.

—**“Article VII—Sin and Free Will,” The Confession of Faith of The Evangelical United Brethren Church**

I loved the feeling of freedom in running, the fresh air, the feeling that the only person I’m competing with is me. . . . I ran and ran and ran every day, and I acquired this sense of determination, this sense of spirit that I would never, never give up, no matter what else happened. . . . It doesn’t matter what you’re trying to accomplish. It’s all a matter of discipline. I was determined to discover what life held for me beyond the inner-city streets.

—**Wilma Rudolph, runner and Olympic gold medalist**

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

—**Galatians 5:13-14**

Training Schedule

What new spiritual disciplines (or "ordinances of God") will you commit to in the coming weeks? Fill in the days of the month on the blank calendar below. Then jot down, on the appropriate days, the spiritual practices that you will commit to. You may commit to doing something every single day (such as morning prayer or reading a daily devotional), once each week (attending a mid-week worship service or Bible study), or whenever the need arises (resisting the temptation to spend your allowance on something that you don't need).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Transformers:

Christians Who Chose to Change the World

Name: Erik Veliz

From: Bolivia

Age: Early 20s

Chose to Resist: Abuses to human rights

- ✦ Worked and lived with farm workers in Florida, picking tomatoes for \$3/hour in blistering heat. Traveled to Washington, D.C., to persuade members of Congress to improve conditions for the farmers.
- ✦ Served in an Ethnic Young Adult internship program at the United Methodist Board of Church and Society in Washington, D.C., working on social justice concerns.
- ✦ Worked for the Tennessee Fair Housing Council and Amnesty International USA.
- ✦ Helped set up English-as-a-second-language classes at his local church.

Quotation: "I don't just want to talk about human rights. I don't just want to complain. I want to do something."

Name: Casey Robbins

From: Minnesota

Age: teenager

Chose to Resist: Homelessness

- ✦ Spent 100 nights outside, on her roof, during the winter to raise awareness and funds for the homeless.
- ✦ Volunteered at the pharmacy of an HIV/AIDS hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ✦ Worked with a medical campaign in rural Kenya, helping administer AIDS and malaria tests to people who were without access to medical help.
- ✦ Volunteered at the Dignity Center, a ministry of her local United Methodist church, serving persons in need of food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and employment.

Quotation: "I saw [homelessness] as something that I could do something about."

Name: Jacob Albright

From: Pennsylvania

Age: died in 1808, at age 49

Chose to Resist: Obstacles to preaching the gospel to German-speaking Pennsylvanians

- ✦ Struggled with grief and depression after the deaths of his three children.
- ✦ Joined a Methodist class meeting after a life-changing faith experience, and answered a call to bring Methodism to German-speaking Pennsylvanians.
- ✦ Felt inadequate to preach at first, but educated himself and grew into a gentle but dynamic preacher.
- ✦ Endured persecution as he traveled and preached, being beaten and hit by rocks.
- ✦ Founded the Evangelical Association, one of the denominations that joined to form The United Methodist Church.

Quotation (about Albright): "The wisdom coming from above glowed in his face."

Name: Tatyana McFadden

From: Maryland

Age: teenager

Chose to Resist: Physical disabilities

- ✦ Born with spina bifida; is unable to walk.
- ✦ Adopted at age 6 from a Russian orphanage.
- ✦ Became one of the fastest wheelchair racers in the world, winning silver and bronze medals at the Paralympic Games.
- ✦ Is active in many sports, including ice hockey, swimming, and wheelchair basketball.
- ✦ Learned to drive the family van, using hand controls.
- ✦ Is active in her United Methodist church.
- ✦ Is a role model to her younger sister, who lost a leg.

Quotation: "When someone writes *disabilities*, they should cross out the 'dis-' and just keep the 'ability'; because I think that everyone is able to do something."

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified.
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Morning Watch 1: My Calling to Fulfill

Morning Watch is a time for quiet reflection... Find a quiet place away from others... Be still... Read the Scriptures... Write or draw your responses to the guiding questions... Pray the breath prayer several times... Use the back of this sheet if you need to.

Named: God knows us, names us, and loves us. We should be mindful of our relationship with God in all that we do.

Read Romans 8:14-17: What does it mean for you to be a child of God? How do you relate to God as a parent? How does God care for you as a parent cares for a child?

Read Psalm 139:1-18: God created us and has loved us since before we were born, and God is present with us in all places and all circumstances. When are you most aware of God's presence? How can you remind yourself that God loves you and is with you at all times?

How would you describe your relationship with God? How do you stay connected with God?

Breath Prayer: "Abba, Father, I am yours."

Morning Watch 2: My Calling to Fulfill

Morning Watch is a time for quiet reflection. . . . Find a quiet place away from others. . . . Be still. . . . Read the Scriptures. . . . Write or draw your responses to the guiding questions. . . . Pray the breath prayer several times. . . . Use the back of this sheet if you need to.

Called: God calls us into a life of service as disciples of Jesus Christ according to our gifts and our circumstances. We use the word *calling* to describe our vocation or "life's work."

Read Philippians 3:8-16: What is the calling common to all disciples of Jesus? Are you sensing a call from God? How so? Be assured that you are continually being called. How do you feel about that?

Read Jeremiah 1:1-10: To be consecrated is to be set apart for a special purpose. The Greek word for church is *ekklesia*, which means "called out." The church, including our congregation, is called as a community for a special purpose. What is our purpose?

What are you being set apart for? (Hint: Look for the intersection of your gifts and the needs around you.)

Breath Prayer: "Speak, Lord, Your servant hears."