

The Great Permission "The Pre- and Post-Test"

Welcome to "The Great Permission Quiz"! This is a good place for you to test what you already know – or have learned – about "asset-based thinking," a new approach to working together in congregations. Try this quiz before or after you've read the book, *The Great Permission*. Then check your answers and see how you did. And if you want to talk or think some more about asset-based approaches, go to <http://webboard.elca.org:8080/~gp> on the web to participate in The Great Permission interactive conferencing tool.

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1. "God's grace" is a good place to start planning because God gives us only what we truly deserve.
 2. "Asset-based planning" is actually the same as "acid-based planning," but just spelled differently.
 3. Needs-based approaches to planning eventually become non-sustainable and unmanageable and may burn out pastors and other leaders.
 4. "Neediness" is understandable, but it's not a good place from which to start your planning.
 5. "Assets" are exactly the same as "gifts."
 6. Asset-based planning is simple and orderly in its concepts and execution.
 7. A good way to describe "asset-based planning" is "deciding what to do next together."
 8. "Asset-based thinking" is NOT the same as "positive thinking."
 9. Unfortunately, there is not much biblical material that reinforces this basically secular idea of "building on assets."
 10. Because "asset-based thinking" is basically positive, it is not correct to think of difficulties or problems as assets.

ANSWERS

See how you scored on the quiz. If you missed more than three answers, you might want to read or re-read *The Great Permission*. For reference, use the page numbers after each answer.

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1. FALSE It's true that "grace" is where everything starts, and that God is where all the gracing begins. But NO ONE DESERVES GRACE! Aaaargh! (pages 10-11)
2. FALSE "Acid" is what happens – in your stomach and in your brain – when you get all bound up with "solving problems" instead of "using what you have to get what God wants." (pages 12-13)
3. TRUE Because "presumed neediness" starts with deficits – and not with assets – it taxes brains and bodies trying to solve problems. Eventually something breaks. (pages 26-27)
4. TRUE Neediness subtly binds up your brain with fear, despair, negativity and even selfishness. Hardly a place to start planning! (pages 30-31)
5. FALSE "Gifts" are known and defined by their being given and received. Assets are known by their utility. Another way of saying it: Assets are gifts that are used. (pages 34-35)
6. FALSE Okay, "simple" might be true, like "the simplicity AFTER the complexity." But not "orderly" as in "Follow these steps and you will live." (pages 36-37)
7. TRUE See how simple the idea is? Usually we think that "planning" means to figure out the whole thing, divide it into discrete pieces and then solve each problem or achieve each mini-goal. (pages 40-41)
8. TRUE Good for you! You figured it out: "Positive thinking" is about an attitude that's optimistic, encouraging and affirming. "Asset-based thinking" is all of that and more; asset-based thinking asks the question, "What's useful here?" (pages 48-49)
9. FALSE There are scores of passages and stories that illustrate the principles and practices of asset-based thinking. Start with Mark 6:38 or 2 Peter 1:3. Use the Contemporary English Version (CEV). (pages 56-57)
10. FALSE Christians dare to believe that even their problems can be instructive, worthwhile or otherwise useful. Whatever's useful – for God's purposes – is an asset! (pages 60-61)