

# The Teacher and Teaching with Principle and Passion

“Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants” (Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV).

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you” (Psalm 32:8, NIV).

## Objectives

At the conclusion of this lesson the participant will be able to accomplish the following:

1. Define the critical factors that motivate and inspire biblical teachers.
2. Identify and discuss these critical factors and their influence upon biblical teachers.
3. Explain why there is an imperative for biblical teachers to teach the Word of God.
4. Discuss the validity of these critical factors and influences, and if other factors or influences are equally valid.
5. Identify and discuss the five teaching themes that significantly increase teacher effectiveness.

## Introduction – Teaching with Principle and Passion

In Proverbs 18:16 (KJV), Solomon declared that God’s gift within a man will be revealed to others, and as a result, he will be positioned to influence powerful men. The God-given ability to teach is such a gift! Teachers are “lights set on a hill;” teachers are the “lights of the world;” teachers are God-given gifts for which He will always make room! The ability to teach (to influence, to impart, to guide, to inspire, to challenge) is so important to the purpose of the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. But the most important trait of a teacher is to love students. Without a love for His disciples and the lost, teachers will fall far short of God’s vision for their teaching and will be ineffective in achieving His purpose for their lives and calling.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and **teachers**; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12, KJV).

As teachers, you are not just members of His kingdom; you are an essential and critical ministry of the Church. Without anointed and impactful biblical teaching, the Church will not function properly and its ministers and saints will not be adequately equipped to produce disciples or to win the lost. A close

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examination of Ephesians 4:11-12 will reveal that apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and **teachers** have a primary purpose: *perfecting the saints*. Subsequently, this perfecting (equipping, empowering, and teaching) of the saints will prepare (endow, furnish, and qualify) them for:

1. The work of the ministry, and
2. The edifying of the body of Christ

Often, ministers and teachers attempt to accomplish these spiritual objectives only through their *own* talents, abilities and efforts. Scripture instructs teachers to *perfect* (teach, train, inspire) the saints for the work of the ministry and the edifying of the body of Christ, and not to do everything themselves. Neither teachers nor ministers can accomplish the purpose of the Lord Jesus in this world alone; they must train and motivate the body of Christ in order to fulfill His Great Commission. Spiritual teachers multiply their efforts by inspiring their students to fulfill God's vision in their lives and the lives of those around them.

Sir Francis Bacon is credited with proposing that "Knowledge is power." Bacon realized that knowledge itself brings power to the individual who has it. In that same context, as spiritual teachers, you impart biblical knowledge to believers who will, in turn, exercise faith and apply the imparted knowledge to their lives. However, Bacon did not recognize that knowledge alone is not enough. And it is not enough for the Spirit-called teacher.

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom:  
And with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7, KJV)

"Those who know, do. Those that understand, teach." (Aristotle)

King David's words to his son, Solomon, reveal the major theme of the book of Proverbs – the greatest achievement of any life is not the accumulation of things, but gaining of wisdom and understanding in how to live in this present world. And the attainment of spiritual wisdom and understanding should be the key goal of every life.

But men and women often search for everything else but understanding. Perhaps the greatest tragedy or result of sin is man's foolish pursuit of power, pleasure and privilege instead of a deep understanding and wisdom about God's purpose and power for their lives. For example, being able to count to twenty does not make one a mathematician. Learning to count is simply knowledge, and while knowledge is important, the application of knowledge to life is what will produce wisdom and understanding. The spiritual teacher must take the "seed" of biblical knowledge and transform student lives by growing wisdom in their hearts and souls. And the result will be the "getting of understanding." Wisdom is produced in a heart or life when knowledge is assigned a value or a judgment. Teachers must guide students away from the simple memorization of facts and to the realization that such knowledge demands a value of right and wrong or good and evil. William Ralph Inge reinforced this principle when he said, "The aim of education is the knowledge not of facts but of values."

Perhaps wisdom is best understood as the ability to make a sound value judgment. Wisdom gives a man or woman the ability to correctly judge a particular circumstance. In a given situation, it is the ability to rightly judge whether to act or not act, speak or not speak in order to be pleasing to God and not man. Wisdom is self-control and self-discipline in action based upon an understanding of God's Word. But

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what is spiritual understanding? Understanding, coupled with judgment (wisdom), allows one to correctly discern events, people and situations in life. Godly understanding is spiritual discernment applied to practical living.

Which brings me to the heart of this lesson – Why do you teach?

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence *plus character* – that is the goal of true education.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

As spiritual teachers, the reasons and motivations as to why you teach should not be based on man’s knowledge only, but on the established principles of the Word of God. In spite of this world’s terrible example, character is an essential ingredient to exceptional biblical teaching. A person’s character encompasses the moral and ethical quality of that person. It reflects the qualities of honesty, courage and integrity. Character is your reputation as judged by other, not as judged by you.

Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds."  
But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds?  
I will show you my faith **by** my good deeds" (James 2:18, NLT).

“If we are not careful, our words become inaudible  
whispers and our actions amplified screams.” (Buie, 2015)

Nothing is more important today than being a teacher of strong moral character based on godly principles and practices. Character is not what you say, but rather, what you do. Biblical teaching must be a reflection of biblical principles and truths that produces godly character in both the teacher and the student.

### *I Teach Because...The Times Demand It*

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be **lovers of their own selves**, covetous, boasters, proud...” (2 Timothy 3:1-2, KJV)

“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (Verse 7).

The spiritual degradation of this world today must cause us to realize that spiritual teachers are vital to the welfare of the Church and its ministry and saints. The times demand our very best as teachers who stand firm on the fundamental principles and truths of the Word of God, and will not be intimidated by the gross sin and unbelief that is rampant in the world. You and I are filled with His Spirit, baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and are determined to hold fast to His holiness and godliness. Our eyes must be on the Lord Jesus and His vision for tremendous revival in these last days.

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

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*I teach because...the Times Demand it!* If fear tries to overwhelm our hearts, we understand that fear is not from the Lord. When difficult and confusing times cause fear to rise in our hearts and spirits, we can be assured such fear originates either from Satan or from within ourselves.

“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Romans 5:5, KJV).

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18, KJV).

“One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:6, KJV).

Undeniably, we are living in perilous times. Unbelief, rebellion, selfishness, pride and the abandonment of faith are but a few of the many signs of His coming. The continuous attack on the family has been underway for many years. However, as we see Satan’s influence increasing in the world, we must also recognize we have a sovereign God “who is above all, through all and in you all” (Ephesians 4:6). He is ruling and reigning throughout these dangerous times and the gospel of Jesus Christ will be preached in the whole world before He comes again.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be **preached in all the world** for a witness unto all nations; and **then shall the end come**” (Matthew 24:14, KJV, Emphasis mine).

Today’s world is a whirlwind of ungodly ideas, beliefs and unrighteousness. Some experts state that temporal knowledge is doubling every thirteen months, and that rate continues to increase. Yet, our testimony is that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, and He continues to empower His Church to win the lost in an ever-increasing harvest! There is no doubt that sin is ever abounding in current society, politics and false religions and doctrines. But we must stand on His unchanging, unshakable Word. That anointed Word is forever settled and alive with His Spirit and truth. Where are the bold, Holy Ghost-filled teachers who are ready to proclaim the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to this and coming generations? I believe that fear has been cast down, and our 21<sup>st</sup> century ministers and teachers are “rooted and grounded” in Pentecostal doctrine and have a new confidence and determination to prepare today’s young generation with spiritual weapons that are not carnal, but mighty through God to defeat Satan and all his minions.

*I Teach because...the Times Demand it!* And because of the times, anointed teachers demand the opportunity to confront false doctrine and spiritual wickedness while simultaneously proclaiming the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is an unwritten declaration of war, Spirit against flesh and flesh against Spirit. Yes, *I teach because...the Times Demand it!*

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4, KJV).

## *I Teach Because...The Lord Commanded It*

“Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father,

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and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching them** to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen”  
(Matthew 28:19-20, KJV).

To properly obey the Great Commission, you must clearly understand what is being asked of you. The Great Commission is not a request of believers; it is an imperative; a command. Sadly, without full understanding or complete truth, many have dedicated their lives and efforts to fulfilling the Great Commission, but did not understand the Lord’s command. If you do not understand the command, then you will have difficulty obeying it. Commands from the King are not to be ignored or considered trivial, but must be obeyed fully.

### *First, I Love the Lord*

“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart,  
and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” (Deuteronomy 6:5, KJV)

In order to fully obey the Great Commission, biblical teachers must understand and obey the Greatest Commandment. We are to love the Lord with all our heart, and with all thy soul, and with all our might (strength). Truly loving God with all our being is a requisite to fulfilling the Great Commission. Today, too many of us are attempting to obey the law and commandments of God without falling in love with the Lawgiver. If I will, first, fall in love with and respect the Lawgiver, then obeying His commandments will not be a difficult task. When I truly love God, I want to please Him, to serve Him, and to do His will. Obeying God is not a difficult when you fully love God *and* His commandments.

### *Second, I Go, Teach and Make Disciples*

In this context, fulfilling the Great Commission flows naturally from the fact that we love the Lord and are dedicated to His purpose. As teachers, your perspective on the Great Commission is found in the commands, “Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations” and “teaching them...” It should be obvious, that to obey this commission, you must “go.” However, whether you “go” to your neighbor’s house or halfway around the world will be dependent upon God’s specific calling for you. Some of you are ministering and teaching in your local churches while others are serving the Lord as Bible school instructors or administrators. Still others of you may travel throughout your native country or within your region, doing your very best to accomplish the Great Commission in the manner and scope that God has called you. The point here is this: where you are “going” is dependent upon your ministry, teaching all nations and teaching them to observe the things of God is your obedience to Him and is the heart and soul of God’s command.

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15, KJV).

Remember, above all else and regardless of where you are called to “go,” you are commanded to proclaim the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to every creature - to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people (Revelation 14:6, KJV). To obey the Great Commission as the Lord envisioned, each of us must do two things: 1) obey the command of God ourselves, and 2) teach the gospel to every creature so they may obey the command of God themselves.

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“Therefore, go and **make disciples** of all the nations...” (Matthew 28:19, NLT).

Where we go in fulfilling the Great Commission is often different for each of us, but what you do when you arrive is not. You are to “make disciples,” not for your glory and not for your kingdom, but for the glory and the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. In what is referred to as The Lord’s Prayer, Jesus prayed, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Mark 6:10, KJV). You do not teach to gain personal followers, or renown, or to create an earthly kingdom; you labor, you teach, and you preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to make disciples for Him, to increase His kingdom, and for His glory and honor. To do otherwise is to totally miss “the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippines 3:14, KJV).

“For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12, KJV).

If we go, and we must, then our motives for going must be pure. We must produce disciples for the Lord Jesus. Remember, the prophet’s admonition to King Saul, “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams” (1 Samuel 15:22, KJV). No amount of personal sacrifice and no amount of personal zeal will offset the lack of obedience to God’s command – make disciples! Ensure all of your commitment and dedication is not for nothing by absolutely focusing on winning the lost to Jesus Christ.

### *Third, I Teach the Word of God*

After you have made disciples of the Lord Jesus, you must establish those disciples in Pentecostal doctrine by “*Teaching them* to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20, KJV, Emphasis mine). This is both an academic and spiritual process. Disciples may understand that the Lord Jesus is their Savior and Redeemer, but they must be established theologically in the Word of God and brought to an understanding of who He is and what His will is for them. We, as teachers, are uniquely called and anointed to do exactly this major directive of the Lord Jesus.

“For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27, ESV).

The Apostle Paul’s final words to the Ephesian elders made clear his purpose – to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God is absolutely essential to effective missions and discipleship, whether local or global. We can see in the United Pentecostal Church International motto the indispensable components of true missions – “The Whole of Gospel to the Whole World by the Whole Church.” Disciples of the Lord Jesus should not only know Him as Savior and Redeemer, but must understand and know Him in the glorious revelation of the oneness of God, the essentiality of receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost as evidenced by speaking with other tongues, being “buried with him in baptism” in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by godly lives resulting from the purity and “beauty of holiness” (Colossians 2:12, KJV; Psalm 96:9)

Paul Washer reinforced this concept when he wrote in *Understanding the Great Commission*, “Missions is not about *sending* [my emphasis] missionaries, but about sending God’s truth *through* [my emphasis] missionaries who are approved to God as workmen who do not need to be ashamed, accurately

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handling the Word of truth.” It should now be obvious to each of us that we are to be a channel or conduit *through* which God’s Word can be transmitted to every believer everywhere!

In 1792, preaching from Isaiah 54:2-3, William Carey, a missionary to India, declared two great mandates for believers: 1) Expect great things from God, and 2) Attempt great things for God. At that time, the mission field of India was described as “a very deep gold mine” and Carey volunteered by saying, “I will go down in the mine, but remember that you must hold the rope.” Washer expanded on Carey’s view of missions:

At the great risk of over simplification, the Great Commission can be divided into two separate tasks: Every believer is called to go down into the mine or to hold the rope for those who have gone down (William Carey). A believer should either go into the mission field or stay at home and support those who have gone. However, regardless of calling, every believer must demonstrate equal devotion to the Great Commission and be willing to suffer the same loss. Both he who holds the rope above the mine and he who clings to it within the mine will suffer the same scars on their hands.

So what is the Great Commission? It is the Lord’s imperative to His Church to preach and teach the gospel to every nation and every person in the world; to teach the whole counsel of God to believers; and to establish “communities” (churches, Bible studies, outreaches, etc.) according to His Word. How do we accomplish this awesome responsibility? What are the possibilities? “*You go and I stay*” or “*I go and you stay*” or “*We go*” or “*We stay*.” We all must obey His command, work in harmony and “always hold on to the rope.”

*I Teach Because...I Want to Change Lives*

A recent student survey asked a group of young adults to describe one of their teachers who influenced them growing up. The survey question asked: “Think back on a teacher who had a significant positive influence on your life and share briefly about who this person was and what they did that influenced you” (Passing the Baton survey 2014).

Of the 464 young adults surveyed, 367 responded to the survey question. Here are some of those responses:

“She took time to **listen** to me. She asked about my plans and dreams and **encouraged** me to follow them.”

“This professor gave me **confidence** to step out. Without his help, I would not have succeeded. I have now been in education for nearly 40 years.” “I got the feeling that he not only liked me but that he wanted me to succeed in everything I did.”

“She had very **high standards**, but communicated them clearly and made me feel like I could live up to them.”

“I was having a little trouble, so I pushed myself under the table in the classroom. Well, she pushed herself under the table with me. It just seemed like **she would do anything for me**. I loved her.” “My only memory of my teacher

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was of him playing Basketball with a few of us guys after school.  
It was meaningful Because he **willingly invested his time.**  
“Many of us would linger outside his classroom between classes.  
On some nights we’d drop by his house...girls and guys, football  
players and Key Club members, just to chat. Mr. Grant  
cared about more than history – **he cared about us.**”

There is no doubt that teachers continue to positively influence their students and make a difference in their lives. One young man strongly responded, “His belief in me changed my life!”

All of us remember teachers in our lives that were either positively or negatively influenced our ability to learn. When someone recalls these teachers, they use very descriptive words. Both positive and negative descriptions are shown below. Can you remember the teachers in your life? In which category do you find yourself?

#### Positive Influencers

- Demanding, but supportive
- Always interested in me
- Excited about what she/he taught
- Had a good sense of humor
- Always happy
- Asked for our opinion and ideas
- Allowed us to choose project topics
- Always keeps my attention

#### Negative Influencers

- Intimidating
- Distance and unapproachable
- Demeaning and insulting
- Had NO sense of humor
- Always seemed angry/upset
- Never asked our opinion or ideas
- Dictated all homework and projects
- Very boring and uninteresting

### Five Life-changing Teaching Themes – Making a Difference

#### *Encouragement*

These teachers purposely encourage their students, and their encouragement takes many forms: assisting, backing, comforting, consoling, having faith in, inspiring, being optimistic, reassuring, rewarding and stimulating students.

#### *Support*

Such teachers frequently offer support to their students and tell their students that they can succeed. Supportive communications are: admiring, complimentary, considerate, cordial, enthusiastic, friendly, generous, kind, respectful, sensitive, sympathetic and understanding.

#### *Caring*

These teachers purposely communicate a caring attitude toward students. Caring communications or actions are: pay attention to student needs, consider and respect student learning input, foster open communications between students and teacher, nurture student initiative and innovation, protect



students from undue criticism, provide for student feedback, take time to listen to students, and show genuine interest in student lives, families and walk with God.

### *Investment*

Such teachers give above and beyond their time in the classroom; they invest in their students and their individual lives. Teachers invest in students by: devoting extra time and attention, spending extra time with students in and out of class, adopt student ideas and projects, authorize student-directed learning, empower student critical thinking, initiate student/teacher interaction, endorse student learning groups, and listen to and value student viewpoints.

### *Challenge*

These teachers have high academic and behavior standards and raise student achievement expectations. Teachers can challenge students in multiple ways, including: offer challenging readings and assignments to increase student perspective, suggest more difficult vocabulary and range of knowledge, offer formidable, but realistic projects, suggest loftier student goals, provide more strenuous materials as students advance, and challenge students to have a visionary approach to learning.

## *Discussion about Why I Teach...*

- A. Discuss how God-called teachers are empowered by Scripture?
- B. In Ephesians chapter 4, teachers are listed as part of the “five-fold ministry.” Discuss whether teachers are as important as apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastors.
- C. List three primary responsibilities teachers have in fulfilling the Great Commission.
- D. Reflect on your teaching over the past three months. What were the critical factors that motivated and inspired your teaching, and explain why?
- E. Considering Ephesians 4:11-12, discuss how teachers can positively contribute to “the perfecting of the saints” in order to prepare them for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ.
- F. What can you do to ensure your knowledge of God will mature into wisdom and understanding?
- G. What teaching themes can be employed to improve the learning environment and increase student achievement and confidence?
- H. Reflecting on your teaching style. What teaching theme can best help you be a more effective spiritual teacher?
- I. Consider the positive and negative influencers in the lesson. What positive and negative influences do you see in your teaching?

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## Conclusion

I recently thought about my first student-teaching experience forty-five years ago at Neville High School in Monroe, Louisiana. In retrospect, I am sure I was not a very good teacher. I did not have any experience, I was young, and I was nervous because the “real” teacher was in the back of the room grading my teaching. The subject I taught was American History and the class was studying the American Civil War. I plodded through the lessons and I made an excellent grade at the end of the semester. But that student-teaching was just for practice. My real teaching assignments began in real life when the Lord called me to preach and teach His Word. Now I realize that the decisions that students make, based on my preaching or teaching, have life and death implications. I must be adequately prepared, I have to ask for His anointing, and I have love and respect my students. After all, their souls depended on it.

I would challenge you today to raise your teaching standards, fast and pray to seek His direction and anointing, and prepare your teaching session as if lives depend on it - because they do. Prepare your lesson plans so you have more material than you can squeeze into the allotted time. Know your subject matter in detail and pray until you are confident the Lord has anointed what you will teach, but more importantly, pray until you are confident He has spoken to you about your students or audience – where their spiritual hunger lies and what they need to hear from the Lord. And then, love them with the same great compassion as He loves them.

Do not forget, you are not the gospel and it is not your kingdom. You serve as a means of delivery, a channel or conduit for the life-changing gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to flow through you. Please allow the attitude of John the Baptist to guide your spiritual teaching – “He must increase, and I must decrease” (John 3:30, KJV).

## Lesson in Review

1. In your own words, explain the role of teachers in the “five-fold ministry” of Ephesians 4:11-12.

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2. What are the challenges facing biblical teachers today? How can godly teachers overcome these spiritual challenges? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Why is it important, as a teacher, to ensure student knowledge matures into wisdom and understanding? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What are three critical biblical factors motivating teachers to continue to teach the Word of God?

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5. List three traits of both positive and negative influencers (total of six). \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What are the five themes used by effective teachers to increase student performance and attitudes?

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7. What are the challenges of using the teacher theme, *investment*, in and out of your classroom?

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8. In your opinion, how effective is biblical teaching in your local church or Bible school or other ministry environment? Explain why. \_\_\_\_\_

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9. How confident are you that your biblical teaching is effective and life-changing? Explain why.

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10. What role does teacher collaboration play in increasing student performance and knowledge retention? \_\_\_\_\_

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