My Definitions of the Working Tools, Symbols and Lessons of the Degrees

This exercise is not about doing extensive research to determine what someone else thought the lessons of the ritual might be, but, rather for you to determine the meaning and how you might apply these lessons to improve yourself.

To get you started below are a couple of lists: The Working Tools and a few of the symbols, subjects and degree lessons. Start by understanding the ritual message the working tools impart or the lesson the degree teaches and then write a short sentence of what you believe its meaning is. Then determine how you might use this lesson in a practical way in your life.

For example, the 24" Gauge teaches us about the efficient use of our time. You might expand this lesson by writing how you believe that time management would help you overcome some time commitment obstacles you face every day. After understanding its importance, you might find and then utilize a time management tool for your work obligations, thus freeing up more time for your family. Or you might decide to get up an hour earlier so you might read, exercise or engage in some other activity to educate you or improve your life.

The Working Tools

- 24" Gauge
- Common Gavel
- Plumb
- Square
- Compasses
- Level
- Trowel

Lessons of the Degrees

- Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth
- The Apron
- Faith, Hope & Charity
- Rough & Perfect Ashlars
- The Trestle Board
- The 7 Liberal Arts & Sciences
- The Emblems on the Master's carpet

The Masonic Lesson: 24 Inch Gauge

What the Ritual Says:

Used for the instructive purpose of dividing our time.

What this means to Me:

In order to balance my time between my family, my career, my activity in Lodge, I need to make sure I use time wisely. I find myself overwhelmed at times and need to devise a way to control this.

Quick thoughts on how I will use this:

- 1. Proper planning of my day & week
- 2. Prioritize my tasks
- 3. Ríd myself of un necessary tíme wasters
- 4. Assess my commitments and eliminate those that are not aligned with my life's purpose or those things not important to me.

How this will benefit Me:

My Life	1. less hectic
	2. more purposeful
	3. helps to develop goals
	4.
My Family	1. more time with
	2. not dístracted
	3. happíer
	4.
My Job	1. more dírected
	2. better focus
	3. possible promotion
	4.
My Community	1. more active
	2. assume leadership role
	3.
	4.
In Masonry	1. more active
	2. enjoy more
	3. time to be an officer
	4.

The Masonic Lesson: Brotherly Love

What the Ritual Says:

What this means to Me:

Quick thoughts on how I will use this:

My Life	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
My Family	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
My Job	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
My Community	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
In Masonry	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.

The Masonic Lesson: Relief

What the Ritual Says:

What this means to Me:

Quick thoughts on how I will use this:

My Life	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
My Family	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
My Job	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
My Community	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
In Masonry	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.

The Masonic Lesson: Truth

What the Ritual Says:

What this means to Me:

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Quick thoughts on how I will use this:

My Life	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
My Family	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
My Job	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
My Community	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
In Masonry	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.

The Masonic Lesson:

What the Ritual Says:

What this means to Me:

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Quick thoughts on how I will use this:

My Life	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
My Family	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
My Job	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
My Community	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
In Masonry	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.