

Keys to a Good and Godly Life - December 27

Today, I want to talk about some important keys to having a good life, a godly life. And these keys relate to the truths and commands given to us in God's word.

- Psalm 1:1-3. Overall, the main key, the main point, is that we need to stay away from the lies promoted by people in the world and live according to the truths communicated to us in God's word. Well, let's go through what I believe are the most important truths for this year, but not just for this year, but for every year.

1. Your Relationship with God. We all know that God is the most important person in your life. He made you, saved you, wants to have a close relationship with you, and has special plans for your life. Here are a few thoughts on this most important point:

- Know who God is. First, know who God is, that God is God, that He is God Almighty, that He is your Creator and Sustainer, that He is your Lord, and that He is your Savior. And know that He is omniscient, omnipresent, truthful, and unchanging.

Know God's character, that He's loving, holy, powerful, wise, sovereign, good, forgiving, faithful and patient. Knowing God's character is so important for your life; and so I encourage you to ask God to reveal, to make Himself known to you. Eph. 1:16, Ph. 3:10

- Know God's word. Know the truth about who God is, what man is like, who Jesus is, who the Holy Spirit is. Know the truth about the church, the future, about how to have good relationships, and so much more. Ephesians 4:3-4. I encourage you then to be reading and studying God's word. Ezra 7:10

- Get time with God. Think of how Jesus got time with His heavenly Father. Mark 1:35. Think of how Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet, and that Daniel prayed three times / day, and that Moses saw Him who is invisible.

Love God. The Bible tells you that you're to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. And this love is a godly love, an agape love, a spiritual love, a love that starts in your heart, a love that responds to the love that God has for you. 1 John 4:19

- It's a love that sees God for who He is and what He's done for you, a love that bows to Him, fears Him, adores Him and is thankful to Him. It is a love that shows itself in praise, singing, and obedience. It is a love where you spend time with God, and express your love to Him. It is a love that is exclusive, meaning you have no idols, no false gods in your heart, for God is a jealous God who wants undivided love from you.

- Every day, you want to have a good, open relationship with God for this is foundational and central to your Christian life, for if your relationship with God is right, then everything else will be right, and like Enoch, you will be walking with God.

2. Have faith in God. Prov. 3:5-6, Matt. 8:10. There's no doubt that the success of your life relates directly to faith. And this means trusting in God, not relying on yourself but on God, and depending on Him for His love, strength, wisdom, and direction in life.

- Prov. 28:26. Jer. 17:7-8. Indeed, true blessing and spiritual prosperity result from faith, joy and peace result from faith, and good relationships result from having faith in God.

3. Prayer. Now prayer is directly related to faith, for a person who is praying has faith. And you are praying to the living God, the One who hears every word you say. And true prayer means you are believing God can help you, can lead you, can bless you. Heb. 11:6
- Now we have examples in the Bible of people who were praying, and we need to learn from their examples. James 5:17-18 - Elijah; Luke 2:36-37 - Anna; Col. 4:12 - Epaphras
- And you need to pray to God every day and be praying for all things. 1 Thess. 5:17
And so determine this coming year to be praying to God every day. Daniel 6:10

4. Thankfulness. 1 Thess. 5:18, Col. 1:11-12 – *"... joyously giving thanks to the Father."*
Ps. 69:30-31 – *"I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving."*
Ps. 136:1 – *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting."*
- God commands you to thank Him, for it is the right thing to do. God has done so much for you, and if you don't thank Him, then you're ungrateful, and you won't be spiritually happy, you won't be filled with joy, and you won't be pleasing God. You'll be grumbling and complaining and won't be a good witness, a good testimony to others. Luke 17:15-16
- Being thankful is one simple thing you can do this year that will result in you having a godly and positive attitude, and in God using you and blessing you. Psalm 50:23

5. Humility. Being humble means you see God for who He is, that He is God, that He is your Lord, and you see who you are in relationship to Him, that you're created by Him, that He's infinitely greater than you, and that He's your Master and you're His servant. Being humble is essential for your spiritual success in life. And being humble starts in your thought life; it means thinking rightly about God and having a right relationship with Him, a relationship where you are humble before Him. For example, it means you don't challenge God and tell Him what to do, but rather you listen and respond to Him when He tells you what to do.

Now the benefits of being humble are many:

- It results in you being thankful to God, for you see that all that you have that is good is from God. Psalm 100:4-5

- It results in you praying, for you see that you are needy and that only God can help you.

- It results in you serving God and obeying God, for you see that God is your Master, and you are His servant, and you will do whatever He wants you to do. Luke 17:7-10

It results in you learning from God, and that's because you don't think you know it all, but you look to God who knows everything and can teach you what He wants you to know. Being humble results in you having good relationships with other people, in having friends. And to be honest, humble people don't usually have many conflicts with others.
- If you're not humble, then God will humble you, and that's the truth. (Mt. 23:12).
And it's a good thing to be humbled by God, for being humble is so important for your life, your relationships, and for the work God wants you to do. James 4:10, 1 Pet. 5:6

6. Identity. This is another critical truth, and it means you know who you really are. It is not a matter of what others say about you. It's not a matter of what the world says about you. It's not a matter of your color or race, or your upbringing or who your parents are or how much money you have, or what kind of house you live in, or your neighborhood. None of these are in the least bit important when it comes to your identity, and so much of the world thinks in a worldly and fleshly way, and therefore look at others wrongly.

What then is true Biblical identity? It means you know you are made by God, that God is your creator, that you didn't evolve, you didn't come from some slime or amoeba. Now I tell you, what gets me upset about our schools is that they teach evolution, this lie that people evolved from lower life forms, that God didn't make them.
- Now knowing your true identity means you know that you were made in God's image. It means you know you are not an animal, you're not some advanced monkey or ape. It means you have a soul, a spirit; it means you are eternal; it means you are God's most important creation; and it means you know you were made by God so you could have a relationship with Him.

And what can we say about your identity as a Christian?

- It means knowing that you are a child of God, and not a child of the devil, and that God is your Father, and that you are His child.
- It means knowing that you are a saint, a holy one, that God sees you as perfectly righteous.
- It means knowing you have been adopted into God's family and that you are a member of the church; it means you belong, for you have a spiritual family, and so you're not a loner.

It means you know that you are a temple of the Spirit, you know the Spirit of God lives in you. 1 Cor. 6:19-20

- It means you know that you are God's slave, God's servant, and that you are to serve Him, you are to work for Him. Employer
- This results in you knowing that you are special, that you're important to God. It's not a matter of what people think of you, but what God thinks of you, who God says you are. And knowing your identity is foundational to you being happy about yourself, and is foundational to the course, the direction, the purpose of your life.

7. Purpose. As a Christian, God has work for you to do. Now God had work for Adam and Eve to do. And the characters in the Bible had work that God wanted them to do. And when you look at the life of Jesus, you see that He had work to do too. In John 4:34, Jesus said, *"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work."* In John 17:3, Jesus said to His Father, *"I brought you glory by completing the work You gave me to do."* In Eph. 2:10, Paul says, *"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

Now God has work for each one of you to do, special work, significant work. And this work relates to a job you may have, it relates to the family you are in, it relates to the church, it relates to friends or neighbors you have. And this work can be physical work, relational work, spiritual work, work that builds God's kingdom. And again, your work is special, it's unique. That is, God doesn't have you all doing the same thing. You are part of a team, you are part of a spiritual body, and God has a special job for each one of you. And oftentimes, it relates to the spiritual gift that God has given you. 1 Peter 4:10

Oftentimes your work relates to the church you are in, and to the people you are with. 1983-1993 – taught once on Sunday, and it was in the last month I was there. Rapture. Now God wants you to pray and ask Him to lead you in the work He wants you to do. He wants you to be humble, and be willing to do whatever He wants. And He wants you to obey His commands, for it is God's commands that give clear direction as to the work He wants you to do. One-anothers – encourage..., pray..., serve..., confess...
- Acts 13:36 – *"For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, feel asleep."* Matt 25:21 – *"Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your Master."*

Well, these are seven keys to living a good life, a successful life, a blessed life, a God-pleasing and God-glorify life. And next week we will look at seven more keys.