



## APPENDIX E

### A Few Principles for Christian Living

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## It's Your CHOICE – A Few Principles for Christian Living

### A FEW PRINCIPLES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

1. No matter what else is in your life, there is no relationship more important than your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Nurture that relationship ... treasure it ... build it ... pray about it ... affirmatively plan on how you can enhance it. (Matthew 22:37-38; Revelation 2:4-5)
2. There is nothing more important in any day ... NOTHING . . . than having your quality, disciplined, quiet time with the Lord (systematic Bible study, meditation on the Word of God, and organized, persistent and fervent prayer). Any day in which you have spent significant time with the Lord in Bible study and prayer, and then live for the Lord, is a success regardless of what else happens. Any day in which you fail to have quality quiet time with the Lord is not a success, regardless of what else happens.
3. Seek the approval of God rather than trying to please men (Galatians 1:10). Be a God-pleaser, not a man-pleaser.
4. Fear God in your reverence to Him and in the urgency of your obligations to obey Him . . . do not fear men. (Psalm 27:1; Psalm 56:11; Psalm 118:6-9; Psalm 33:8; Proverbs 29:25 [Exodus 15:11; Genesis 22:12; Exodus 20:18-20; Leviticus 11:44-45])
5. In your choice of a life mate and in your choice of a business partner in any type of venture *be equally yoked*. To be equally yoked is not simply that two people profess to be Christians. Even if both creatures pushing upon a yoke are oxen, if one oxen is intending in his heart to move in a different direction or at a different speed or for different purposes than the other, then the very purposes for being equally yoked will be compromised. (II Corinthians 6:14)
6. Take comfort that the Holy Spirit Himself is praying for you, and that the precious Lord Jesus Christ Himself is also interceding for you. (Romans 8:26; 8:34)
7. For a Christian, it is of the highest order to be the person God wants him or her to be, doing what God calls him or her to do. Once that is in order, then he or she must do that to which he or she has been called, to the glory of God. Specifically, be very sure in your heart that you are called from on high to be doing what you are doing at this time. With that calling settled and peaceful in your heart, do it to the glory of God.
8. **Romans 8:28** is not merely a pretty saying and it is not a trite expression to say to a person faced with difficulty or loss. It is one of the most practical, bedrock, faith-enhancing verses in all of Scripture. Know this verse, believe it, apply it in your own heart and life.
9. Be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. (Romans 16:19; Jeremiah 4:22)
10. In your speech to others, speak only what is helpful for building others up and for edification. (Ephesians 4:29)

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11. Be excited about the reality that the Holy Spirit lives in you; that the Holy Spirit abides with you always; that the Holy Spirit always has His hands of help and comfort ready; that the Holy Spirit Himself will teach you spiritual wisdom from the Bible; and that the Holy Spirit Himself will guide your mind and heart as you plan for this day and for the days to come. Remembering all of those benefits, therefore, do not grieve or put out the Holy Spirit's fire in your life. (I Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30-32; Psalm 139:7-10; I Corinthians 2:10-11; Acts 1:8; Romans 15:19; John 14:26; Acts 9:31; John 14:16-17; John 16:8; Romans 8:11; I Corinthians 6:19; Romans 5:5; Luke 12:12; I Corinthians 2:10-16; Jude 20; I John 4:1-6; Acts 9:31; Romans 8:9; Romans 14:17; Romans 15:16)
12. Always trust in God to keep His promises. Never waiver in your faith that God will keep His promises. Never entertain even the slightest doubt about God's faithfulness and integrity to keep His promises. (I Thessalonians 5:24; Ezekiel 36:36)
13. Be very careful about your thought life. It is a lie of Satan that says that we cannot control our thoughts. The Lord would not give us a command to do so, if He did not give us the ability to obey by His grace. (II Corinthians 10:5)
14. Press toward the goal for prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus and fix your eyes upon Jesus (Philippians 3:14; Hebrews 12:1,2)
15. If you ever have a need, ASK GOD, and in your asking, ask without doubting and ask with right motives. (James 4:2-3)
16. If there ever seems to be a time when you feel unloved, then meditate on this spiritual promise and reality: the eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms. (Deuteronomy 33:27)
17. Because God is the Rock eternal, you can know you are secure and you can have an unwavering trust and perfect peace. (Isaiah 26:3-7,12)
18. Anger, bitterness, fear and worry are all SELF-inflicted grief. God does not want you to fret. God does not allow you to be a worrier. Do not be anxious . . . do not worry. (I Peter 5:7; Matthew 6:25-34 [The imperative commands of Jesus Christ: "Do not worry about your life ... Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? . . . Oh you of little faith? Do not worry . . . Do not worry about tomorrow."])
19. In this life there is temptation. Temptation itself is not sin. *Entertaining* the temptation is sin. No Christian can ever say that, "The devil made me do it," or "I just could not help myself," or "The temptation was just too strong." No. God Himself has given us a guarantee that we will never be without sufficient help from Him to resist temptation and we will never be without a legitimate escape from every temptation to sin. (I Corinthians 10:13). Also, you **already know** where the object of such temptation is . . . so do not go there. Instead . . . FLEE!!

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20. The growing Christian is joyful. Our Christian testimony will not be effective if we are not joyful Christians. Indeed it is an insult to God and His bountiful shower of blessings upon us for us not to have joy *regardless* of the circumstances of the day. (Psalm 16:11; Psalm 21:6; John 3:29; John 15:11; John 17:13)
21. Remember that *YOU* decide by your choices and by your obedient affirmative actions whether you will be an *instrument for noble purposes* and whether your life will be *effective and productive*. (II Timothy 2:20-21; II Peter 1:5-9)
22. To live on the cutting edge for God you cannot wait until you see everything in place. You must be willing to take steps forward with the eyes of faith. (II Corinthians 5:7)
23. In your very innermost being resolve that your highest **GOAL** is to please God. (II Corinthians 5:9; Proverbs 16:3)
24. This life is short. It is merely a breath and it will be over. By contrast, eternity is unending. Walk in this brief life in light of eternity and fight the good fight. (I Timothy 1:18; II Timothy 4:7)
25. If you are ever feeling a little timid or weak, read and meditate on II Timothy 1:7 . . . “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and self-discipline [sound judgment].”
26. It will be helpful for you to realize the profound truth of this simple little saying, **I can't . . . God can**. (II Corinthians 3:4-6)
27. Apart from God you can do nothing (John 15:5). Depend on Him. Give Him all of the credit. However, you are never separated from the all-powerful God, and you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. (Philippians 4:13)
28. God expects you to put into practice what you learn from the Word. Get out of your chair and **do it!** (James 1:22; Luke 8:21)
29. Be very quick to keep short accounts with God. If you sin, confess it and make it right with the Lord (I John 1:9). After you have truly confessed a sin and repented, **DO NOT** allow Satan to invade your mind with accusations and suggestions of further guilt. We have the special promise of God that He even cleans our conscience. So do not allow the enemy to make you “feel” like you failed to receive the beautiful and complete cleansing of God's forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:14)
30. It is beneficial to your sense of security and safety to remember that God is always present and He is watching and He cares. (Proverbs 5:21)
31. The Holy Spirit who resides in you can give you the words that you need to say no matter what the pressure or circumstances. Trust Him. (Luke 12:11-12)

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32. Evaluate yourself regularly to check if you are becoming more and more conformed into the image of Christ. (I Corinthians 1:7-8; Romans 8:29)
33. You are on God's side (and He is on your side) and God will prevail. (Isaiah 42:13b; Psalm 56:9)
34. A gigantic and significant, yet simple, goal of life: "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me - the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." (Acts 20:24)
35. Do not allow any activity, thing or sin to enslave you or to become your master (I Corinthians 6:12). Jesus Christ has freed us from our sins by His blood. (Revelation 1:5)
36. Concerning your income and material possessions, be constantly reminded that you are merely a STEWARD . . . 100% of what you earn is brought by God . . . 100% of what you have is owned by God . . . and ask yourself this question: "How will I invest God's material resources for God's purposes and God's glory?"
37. You will do well to make as a life ministry to pray for missionaries. "I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to JOIN ME IN MY STRUGGLE BY PRAYING TO GOD FOR ME." (This was the instruction of the great missionary Paul, Romans 15:30).
38. Do not accuse a man for no reason when he has done you no harm. (Proverbs 3:30). Instead, tend to yourself and your own life.
39. When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him. (Proverbs 16:7)
40. God gives His best to those who leave the choices with Him.
41. Your local church must be considered an important priority. Christ is building His Church. You will not receive God's ultimate benefits and blessing from your local church unless you give of yourself and of your means to the local body. As a member of your church, work for peace and harmony so long as it is not a compromise of actual Biblical truth. (Psalm 113:1)
42. Ask God to help you to be skillful in your vocation and to even provide supernatural help from above just as God called and empowered Bezalel and the skillful workmen. (Exodus 31:1-11; 28:3,15,27,28; 35:30-35; 36:1,8,35; Ephesians 4:1)
43. Do not take yourself too seriously. Be quick to laugh at yourself.
44. If you make a mistake, be quick to acknowledge it, and fix it.
45. Do not strive to "make a name for YOURSELF." It is far more important to make the name of the Lord Jesus Christ known and glorified.

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46. Do not joke around by putting someone down or trying to be funny at someone else's expense. It is not funny. It hurts. And only people with small characters do that.
47. There will be times when there is no one else besides you to do what needs to be done or to say what must be said. Do not shrink back from being God's person and being God's spokesman at those times.
48. The Christian should always have joy regardless of the circumstances. That is because joy rests upon our unchanging wonderful God Himself. But for the most part YOU ALSO **CHOOSE** whether you will be happy and you **CHOOSE** whether you will have a sense of well being. That is right. Happiness usually does not depend on circumstances. Happiness and a sense of well being are **CHOICES**. You **CHOOSE** whether you are intending to have a great day. You **CHOOSE** whether you're going to be looking up and pressing forward. You **CHOOSE** whether you will look at the cup as being half full or you will look at the cup as being half empty.
49. DO NOT accept or receive a bad report about a brother or sister in the Lord. It is an act of hatred and disloyalty to assume a wrong motive about the acts of a brother or sister in the Lord. Do not gossip about a Christian brother or sister and do not listen to someone who does. Do not serve as a magnet for malcontents or a clearing house for complainers. (I Corinthians 13:4-8; Proverbs 20:19, 25:23; Romans 1:29; II Corinthians 12:20; Psalms 34:13; John 3:5-12; Proverbs 10:19, 13:3; 15:2; 17:14,27; 21:23; 26:20-22)
50. Anger is self-inflicted grief and is foolish. **CHOOSE** to control your anger. (Proverbs 14:17, 29; 17:14,27; 20:3; 31:33)
51. Seek and obtain counsel from godly people. NOTE - the most important application of seeking counsel is to seek, obtain, and listen to the counsel of YOUR SPOUSE. (Proverbs 11:14; 12:15, 20b; 13:10, 20; 15:22; 19:20-21; 20:18; 24:5-6; 27:9,17)
52. **CHOOSE** to smile (again it is your **CHOICE**). (Proverbs 15:13,30; Proverbs 17:22)
53. We always and only live *today*. Tomorrow never comes. It is always today. That means that we must "work while there is yet light" and we must serve the Lord today. We dare not resign ourselves to waiting to really start serving the Lord until we are "settled" or we have accomplished a certain task, and on and on. No. We live and we serve today. No exceptions. Make today count for eternity.
54. Heaven and eternal life are glorious beyond degree. Imagine being in the presence of our precious Savior without the fetters, carnality and sinfulness of your earthly flesh. For a Christian to fear death is an absolute insult to God and to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ which gave us our glorious salvation and eternal life. For the Christian, his or her eternal life has already started.

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55. God made you who you are by His divine plan and with the fullness of His divine power. God made no mistakes when He created certain limitations and weaknesses in you. God made no mistakes when He gave you talents, aptitudes, abilities and gifts. Never lament how God designed you, and always seek to invest and use for God's purposes and glory those special strengths, qualities, gifts and talents which God gave to you and constructed in you to make you special and unique.
  
56. All of the hustle and striving and pressure and worry of men (and some women) urgently seeking to climb the ladder and to achieve some type of recognition from others is quite silly. Every Christian is given the incredibly high office of being an ambassador of Jesus Christ. Imagine that - to represent the creator of the universe, the King of kings and the Lord of lords! By contrast being President of the United States or the CEO of the largest corporation is such a puny, insignificant office. Be a faithful and fruitful ambassador for our precious Savior.

(II Corinthians 5:17-20)