

CHAPTER SEVEN - PART FOUR

GOD'S DAILY PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

There is a better way to live. The Word of God provides all the instructions necessary to live a life worthy of entering the coming kingdom. Our Lord is offering innumerable riches in the heavenly kingdom and in order to qualify, one must hear His voice and live His way. The gift of the understanding of His message is the greatest gift one could possibly receive in his lifetime. It is able to give one hope during his life, regardless of the circumstances around him. This new hope of a future life with Him is a powerful asset to possess. One of the most important secrets of life, that which Satan has done so well to conceal, is this "Blessed Hope." With this hope, one can run the race of faith and overcome his life. Each of the following daily principles to live by will help us to overcome. By allowing the Holy Spirit to perform these works through us, we will learn to get rid of the "old man" and replace it with the "new man in Christ." This is the key to a better life of purpose and a promising future.

Daily Principle #1)

Know Him through His Word. Open the Scriptures every day with the motivation to learn something new. And don't just read the Word, study it. Begin with the foundation in **Genesis**, comparing Scripture with Scripture, and allow the Holy Spirit to teach you. Consider the seeking of the Word as seeking gold or some other great treasure. Consider it as the most important thing you do throughout your day. When your passion for knowledge has come, He will make you *wise for salvation* and ready to *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*. Don't ever think it is too late. If you knock, God is ready to reach out and open the door.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be

opened. (**Matthew 7:7, 8**)

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

(**James 1:5**)

Only through the understanding and wisdom of His Word can you truly know your purpose in Him and His plan for you. Seek His wisdom every day!

Daily Principle #2)

Pray without ceasing. Pray constantly with thanksgiving, when granted blessings or when under trials. Pray throughout the day when you are alone. Your prayers to the Lord are your communication with Him. Your thoughts are communicated through prayer. Give it all to the Lord for He hears you. It could be short prayers to praise Him for all that He has done. It could be a prayer for others in need, who are sick or lacking the desire to know the Lord. The breath (Holy Spirit) of God will guide you in your prayers if you are not sure what to pray for. But continue earnestly in prayer. Your requests to God are known by Him even before you ask Him and He is faithful to always answer. He may not answer according to your will, but according to His will and always for our good whether we realize or not. And set your life according to God so that your prayers may not be hindered (**1 Peter 3:8**). Daniel's works were pleasing to the Lord, and therefore, the Lord answered his prayer even before his request was made known (**Daniel 9**). God knows what you need even before you ask — we need to be fervent in our walk, always seeking the kingdom *first*. Prayer keeps our relationship with Him strong and it is our way of leaning on Him when we are weak. Let us today practice constant prayer, *casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you* (**1 Peter 5:7**).

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (**Philippians 4:6, 7**)

Daily Principle #3)

Count your blessings, knowing that *every* good gift comes from above (**James 1:17**). Rejoice in them and give thanks to the Lord. And know that *blessings are on the head of the righteous* (**Proverbs 10:6**). If we are continually living righteously and faithfully, we will receive greater blessings in the kingdom.

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:25)

The Scripture in **James 1:25** expresses future blessings, that which involves the promise of an inheritance in the Messianic Era. There are also blessings received during our life that we may be unaware of or do not take into consideration, blessings such as the hope that God gave us for our future or the peace and protection of God. There are times when God provided miracles in our lives, and it is because of His continual work in us combined with our faithful obedience that we are blessed.

Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—just as Abraham “believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” (Galatians 3:5, 6)

Therefore, our faithfulness determines the blessings we will receive. Let us also consider that the present blessings are nothing compared to the blessings that await us in the future. The blessings now are short-lived but future blessings are eternal. And let us also realize that our days here on earth are numbered and with it comes blessings and suffering.

In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing that will come after him. (Ecclesiastes 7:14)

In both circumstances, God is allowing our faith to be tested, as each person’s soul-life will be reviewed by God after death (or rapture). Therefore, our faithfulness or unfaithfulness during blessings and

suffering will be determined at the Judgment seat of Christ. Thank the Lord always for His work in you.

Daily Principle #4)

Be joyful during trials. Trials and suffering come into everyone's life as a test of their faith. You may wonder, "How can I be joyful during trials?" We can be joyful knowing that God has given us another opportunity to trust in Him and endure, so that we can reap in the kingdom to come. We can be joyful because if we remain faithful, God will be with us during these trials and see us through them. If we lean on Him, He will make us strong and help us to find a way of escape. We can be joyful because God is preparing us to be rulers in His future kingdom. Focus on this when adversity comes. Christ had to suffer as a humble Servant of God before He could reap the rewards of reigning in the kingdom. Likewise, Christians are called to suffer in this world (age) until the end so that we also can reap the rewards in the future. It is during trials and suffering that we mature. God is teaching us valuable lessons and molding us into the type of person we ought to be. Trials produce patience — a characteristic of standing fast under pressure, of leaning on God's power that turns adversity into opportunity. It is usually during these times of suffering that God is telling us to *humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you* (1 Peter 5:6). The next time trials come your way, stop and remember the hope that is in you before reacting according to your old self. Trust in the Lord and believe that He will see you through them all. Rejoice when trials come!

Daily Principle #5)

Today, and every day, count others better than yourself.

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to

them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:12)

Treat everyone you meet, friend or foe, loved one or stranger, with kindness, care and love. Do this with no thought of anything in return. Your life will never be the same again. *You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Leviticus 19:18b)* Who is our neighbor? Our neighbors are those who are like-minded in the faith. We are to love them as we love ourselves. Then Jesus gave a new commandment:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34, 35)

Not only are we to love other Christians of like-mind as we love ourselves, but we are to love them just as Christ loves us. Continue daily in this practice of loving unconditionally, for in doing so your transformation will blossom and you will put on the very image of Christ. Others will recognize you as a follower of Christ when you act in this way. Speak evil of no one, especially your brother in the faith (**James 4:11, 12**). You can hate the sin, but not the sinner. It is not our part to condemn, for God will be the One to judge. And just as we are to love, pray for and do good to our neighbors, this also includes our enemies (**Matthew 5:43-48**). Even if our enemies persecute, curse and hate us, continue to pray for them. This is not a suggestion, but a commandment from God. If you abide in this, you will be a firstborn son of God, complete and worthy of future heavenly rewards. Love strangers and acquaintances. Be compassionate and generous toward the needy. Love everyone and do good to all, *especially* to those who are like-minded in the faith (**Galatians 6:10**).

Daily Principle #6)

Live holy and set apart from the world. Practice, Practice, Practice to live righteously, according to the glorious gospel of the Blessed God. When you know the Truth and desire to be saved into the kingdom, you will want to please God and want nothing to do with what the world desires. You must walk worthy of the Lord, being fruitful in every good work. This will involve putting the flesh to death on a daily basis.

It will involve making choices to walk according to the Spirit. Your “old man” in you will want to continue to do bad works, whether it is telling a lie or speaking evil of someone or being mindful of earthly things. You must remember what you have been taught by the Spirit and have the courage to put down the “old man” and put on the “new man” according to the Spirit. When you have passion for Christ and the kingdom, you will be able to transform yourself with the help of the Spirit. But the difficult part will be fighting against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. These evil forces of Satan will do everything in their power to bring you down and keep you from winning the race of the faith. You must be strong in the Lord in order to fight them and win. You must put on the whole armor of God and keep it on at all times (**Ephesians 6:10**). Do not be deceived by them or by the world and all its lusts. Keep far away from them by staying closer to the Lord and your brothers and sisters of the faith. Be holy and overcome.

Daily Principle #7)

When you make a mistake or feel weary, ask God to forgive you and give you strength to overcome. Then be rest assured that He has forgiven you. Your capacity to sin will always be there lingering as we all have a sin nature. But that should never keep you from your ability to overcome and reach your goal. Never quit — your reward will come. Do not let the evil voices of Satan tell you that you have failed. God has given us numerous examples in Scripture of men that sinned but then overcame their sin nature. You too can overcome. We are all sinners and all fall short of the glory of God. But through His grace and mercy, God has given us His Son as our High Priest to be Mediator for us. If we confess our sin and practice putting sin away, we will be victorious in our race. By confessing sin to the Lord, *He is faithful to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)*. He will wipe it away, never to bring it up again. But if we do not confess it, then the sin will remain with us until judgment and we will continue in sin as well.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (1 John 1:10)

A sinful person who denies committing sinful acts does not have the Word of God changing his life. We must be aware of the ever-present danger of habitual and continual sin. We must be on guard against sinful tendencies, for if we do not confess it and put it away, we will surely perish in the age to come.

Instead of habitual sin, abide in habitual obedience to God's Word. Stop yourself when tempted to sin. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you can choose not to sin. You can choose to be transformed. If you are feeling weak or weary, you must plant yourself back into the Word, for there God will revive you and give you strength. Do not allow the world to draw you away from your focus and your path. Stay away from those who entice you to sin, for they live for the world and all its lusts and evilness. Never stop trying to be like Him. Never quit.

Daily Principle #8)

Practice to listen more and speak less. When you do speak, let your words always be kind, gentle, humble, truthful and loving. And when there is an open door of opportunity to tell someone about the hope that is in you, the Spirit of the Lord will speak through you. The tongue is an unruly evil, out of it comes blessing and cursing and this should not be so. From now on, do not say a word unless it is good. You will find that by saying nothing in a conversation filled with cursing and condemnation, you will not have to be ashamed later or have any regrets. You will find that by remaining silent at times or only speaking good, your transformation will appeal and be known by others.

Daily Principle #9)

Let your works align with the Word of God. Once you have been transformed into the "new man in Christ," holy and acceptable to God, and have the knowledge of the glories of Christ, you are to be an

ambassador of God. Your service to Him is to spread the knowledge that He has given you to build His kingdom. You must allow the Holy Spirit to do these works through you. You must build this day on the foundation of Jesus Christ with works of gold, silver and precious stones. To everyone God has given special gifts to use for His glory. Do not leave the Spirit in you dormant. There will be times when God will supply the grain and will place an open door of opportunity for you to minister to someone in front of you. It is at this point when you must be faithful to allow the Spirit to do good works. Always remember that you are a representative of Christ and must always speak the Truth of the Word. Your actions and your words are vitally important. Choose them wisely and you will not be ashamed. Your works will be tried by fire at the Judgment seat of Christ on that Day and will determine whether you will be found worthy to be His bride.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

Daily Principle #10)

Focus this day and every day on the “Blessed Hope.” When you earnestly hope for His return and for the hope of glory, you will strive to win the race of the faith. No greater expectation can we possess than this — to rule and reign with Christ in the kingdom of the heavens! Remember that we were saved by the blood of Christ in this hope and therefore we should eagerly wait for that Day with perseverance. Be mindful of the things of God and His kingdom and not on the things of man and of this world. Put on this hope of salvation when you wake up in the morning and continue to focus on it throughout the day. Christ gave Himself for us to give us this hope of salvation, and to redeem us from every sinful deed.

We are His own special people if we reject ungodliness and worldly lusts, *looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13)*. This hope will give you the motivation to produce good works and to endure till the end. Christ is

our Hope. Rejoice in the hope of the glory of God!

Daily Principle #11)

Walk by faith, not by sight. Believe everything God says in His Word and fully trust in Him. Be faithfully obedient to all His commands, for in doing so you will save your soul in the age to come. Forget yesterday's defeats, when you lived your life in sin and lust. Do not worry about problems of the past or that which may come tomorrow.

...forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 3:13a, 14)

Live this day as if it will be your last. Today is the last chance you get to live for Christ. Consider this day a special gift from God, a day to live as you are called. And you know that we are all called in one hope, in one baptism, in one Lord, in one faith — so live by faith in Christ. Remember that *faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen* (**Hebrews 11:1**). It is by faith in God's Word, fully believing and trusting in Him, that we will be saved in the age to come. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, and therefore impossible to inherit the kingdom and be saved in the age to come. Remember what you have been taught by the Word and consider the examples of all those who lived by faith and endured.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth...but now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. (**Hebrews 11:13, 16**)

Likewise, you also continue in the faith without wavering, for on that Day God will not be ashamed to be called your God, for He will have prepared a city for you. Make every opportunity to live this day as if it is your last chance to do good works, for tomorrow the Lord may come.

Daily Principle #12)

Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. Remember that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Knowing that the Lord is a consuming fire and will judge each one of us on that Day should produce in us a spirit of humbleness. We must lay aside all pride and receive Him with meekness and fear. Be humble in your walk, not puffed up or seeking your own. Christ was a perfect example, though He was God, made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant. He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the Cross. The world, ruled under Satan, is full of deception, teaching us that we should be prideful and self-seeking. Realize that unless you humble yourself as a little child you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.* **(Philippians 1:3)** Strive to be humble. Strive to be like Christ.

