



Purpose Driven Life

Day 8 & 9

Before We Start :

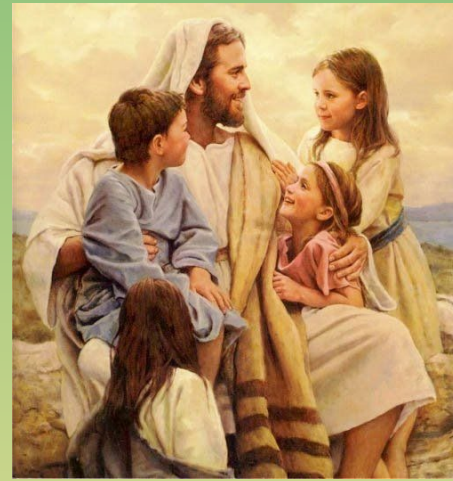
The book is talking about interesting topics and ideas. What we are trying to do is that we take these ideas and we baptize them to be fully Orthodox, so we will talk about these ideas from the perspective of the Orthodox doctrine.

Why God Created Us and How Can We Become Much More Connected to Him?

- God created us because He loves us and He wanted to share His love with us. His pleasure is to be with us and see us change and reach our maximum potential.
- We are created to enjoy His presence in our life.
- This proves how you are so valuable to Him, the Bible says “ Because of His love God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children”
- The reason you are happy and feeling a connection between you and God is that God made you in His image.
- Worship is the key to bring you closer to God.

The Goal of Life

- Enjoying God's presence in your life and enjoying every moment with Him is the Goal of your life !!
- Noah's life is a clear example in the Holy Bible that shows how we can have good connection with God and feel His presence.
- From Noah's life, we can learn 5 acts of worship.



1. Love God
supremely

2. Trust God
completely

3. Obey God
wholeheartedly

Five Acts of Worship:

5. Use our
abilities

4. Praise and
thank God
continually

1. Love God Supremely

- The Bible says about Noah that he followed God's will consistently throughout his life and enjoyed a close relationship with Him.
- In the First Epistle of John (4:19), he says " We love Him because He first loved us"
- That's why learning how to love God and be loved by Him should be our greatest goal in our lives.
- The First and Greatest commandment that God said was " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind "



2. Trust God Completely

- Noah built the ark on dry land, and he was building it for 120 years with full trust in God.

- Trusting in God is the hope in your life when all the pathways are complicated and tight in front of you.

- Trusting in God completely means that you're having faith that He knows what is best for your life.



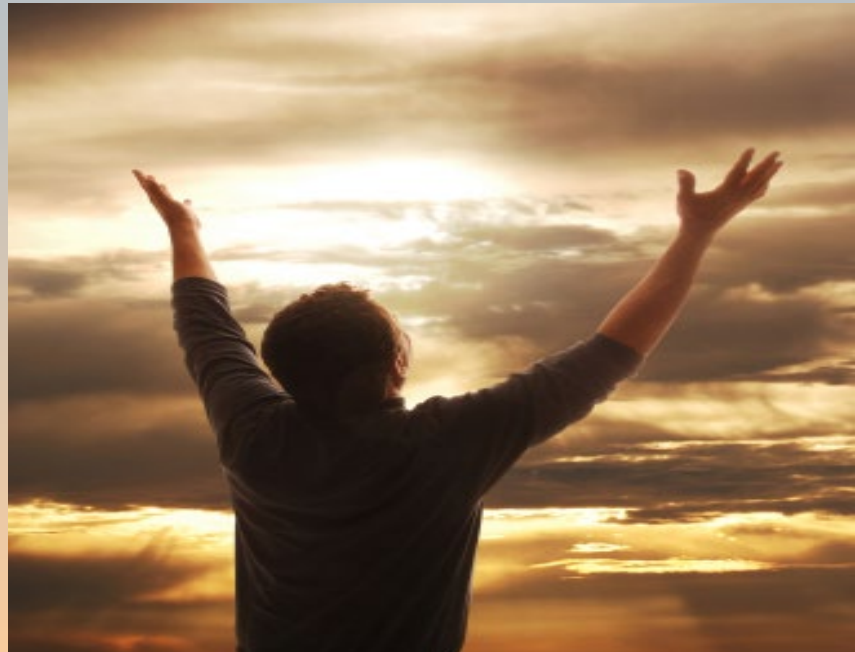
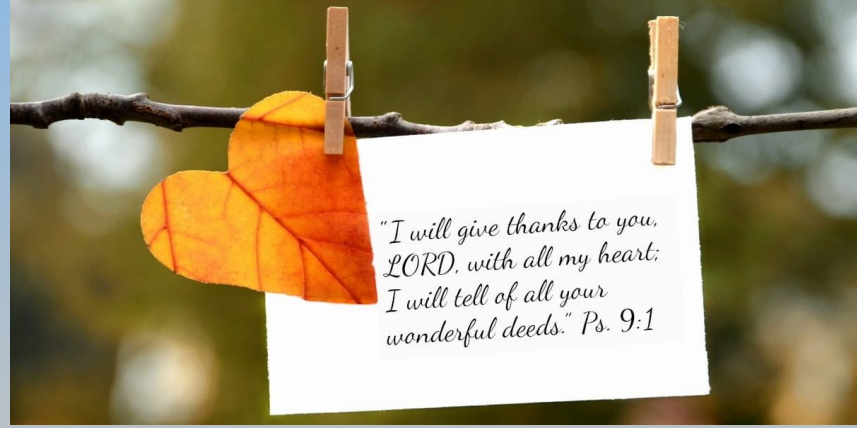
3. Obey God Wholeheartedly

- Obedience proves your love to God, similarly when Noah followed exactly God's instructions for building the Ark.
- God doesn't owe you an explanation or reason for everything He asks you to do.
- Therefore Understanding can wait, but Obedience can't. Obedience unlocks understanding.
- Partial obedience is disobedience.
- Jesus says "If you love Me, you will obey My commandments."



4. Praise And Thank God Continually

- After surviving the Flood, the Bible says "Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and sacrificed burnt offerings on it"
- We offer God "the sacrifice of praise" and "the sacrifice of thanksgiving"
- When we reach our maximum potential and become joyful, this brings God joy and makes Him happy too. (It works both ways).
- We bring joy to God as a father who loves His children.



5. Use Our Abilities

- God enjoys watching you using the talents and abilities He has given you.
- When you reject any part of yourself, you're rejecting God's wisdom and sovereignty in creating you.
- God loves you at every stage of your spiritual life.

Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God.

Leo Buscaglia

quotesgram





Purpose Driven Life: Day 10

The Heart Of Worship



The Meaning Of Surrender: God's Definition

- Not surrendering because “We have to” or because “we’re scared”.
- It’s natural for us to surrender to God’s amazing Love and Mercy.
- You are worshipping Him when you surrender.
- Many words to describe offering yourself:
“Consecration, making Jesus your Lord, taking up your cross, dying to self, yielding to the spirit.”



4 Main Obstacles:

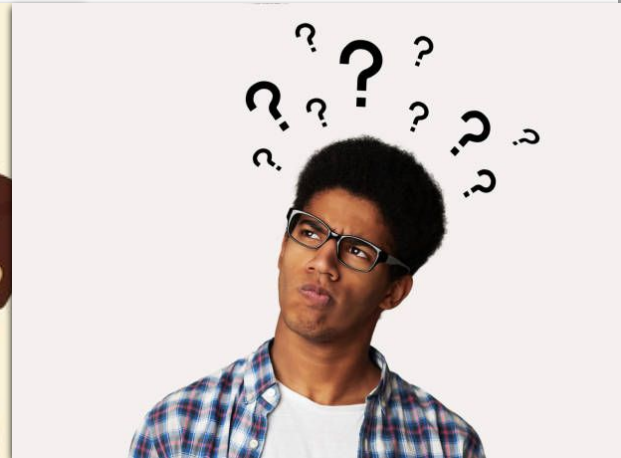
Fear



Pride/Envy



Confusion



Fear: The Solution

- Way to overcome fear - Trust in God.
- Love casts out fear.
- “Look at Christ with His arms outstretched on the cross, saying ‘I love you this much! I’d rather die than live without you’”.
- God is a Lover, not a strict ruler.



Pride: The Solution

- Way to overcome pride - Admit to Limitations.
- We want to boast to others about our accomplishments.
- When you want to be in control, you interfere with God's plans.
- "When you want to be like God, you become less like Him, but more like Satan, who wants the same thing."
 - Pharaoh in Exodus is an example of this



Envy: The Solution

- We may blame God when we are envious of others.
- Way to overcome Envy - Look within.
- Everyone has a Gift/Talent.
- We will not be like God, but we are still special nonetheless.



Confusion: The Solution

- When someone surrenders to God, they sacrifice their life in order to change what needs to be changed
- He doesn't want you to suppress your unique personalities but enhance them.
- Way to overcome Confusion - Trust and Obedience.
 - Example being Simon.



How Do I Know If I've Surrendered To God?

- Look at the people in the Bible.
- If you try to force an outcome, instead of letting them happen the way God intends, you aren't surrendering.
- "Surrender yourself to the Lord, and wait patiently for Him" (Psalm 37:7)
- If you are surrendered, you won't rush to defend yourself, do things for your own benefit or push others away.
- "You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24)
- "Wherever your treasure is, your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21)



3 Benefits To Surrender

- Power of God - Ability to Fight off temptation
 - Jesus and many others had this ability in the past.
 - The Temptation Of Christ
- Freedom
 - “Offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits... His commands set you free to live openly in His freedom” (Romans 6:17)
 - When you confess, you free yourself from Guilt.
- Peace
 - Through the Power of God, and beating the devil, you will feel Peace
 - Nothing is impossible with the Lord



Surrendering Isn't Easy

- Not a one time thing - You may fall off the path God has paved for you.
- Surrender must be a daily habit.
- The devil will tempt you off the path of surrender.
- It's important to get up after falling down to temptation.

