



The Purpose Driven Life

Days 22 and 23

Created to Become Like Christ

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren
Romans 8:29



God's Plan

To fulfill God's plan we must first prioritize our ultimate goal

Often we are discouraged from living the purpose-driven life, and instead want the easy life filled with comfort

It is important to remember, that becoming like Christ does not mean sacrificing your personality, becoming a mindless clone, but rather developing your character
God is interested in what you are, not what you do

What not to do

Follow culture

Live a life of comfort

Acquire a self-absorbed mindset



Three Responsibilities

1. Let go of our old ways
1. Change how we think
1. Put on the character of Christ



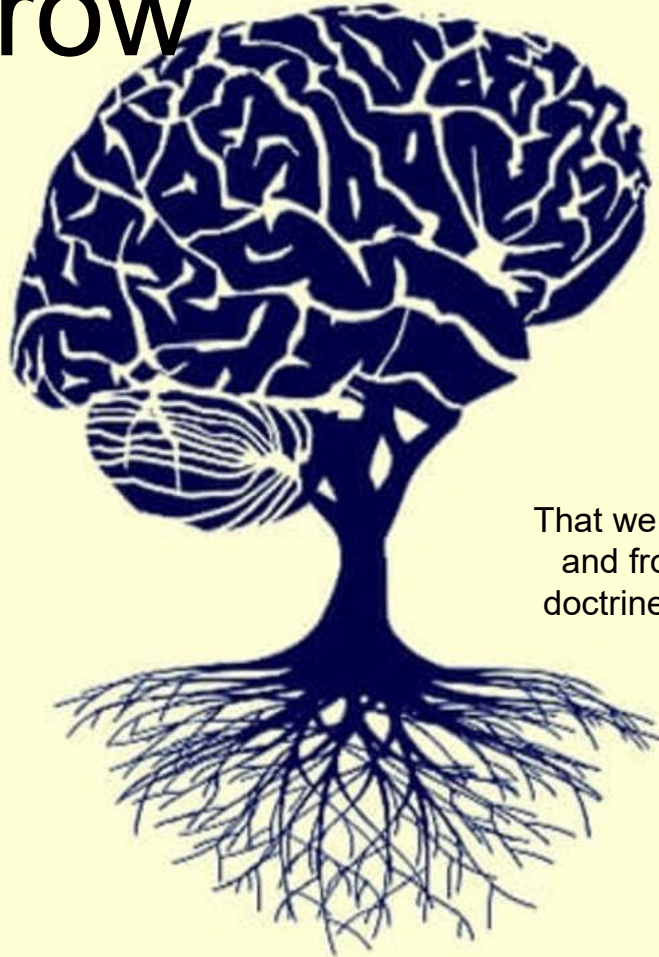
The Holy Spirit

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 3:18



How We Grow



That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting

Ephesians 4:14

Discipleship

A Want to grow

Decide to grow

Make an effort to grow

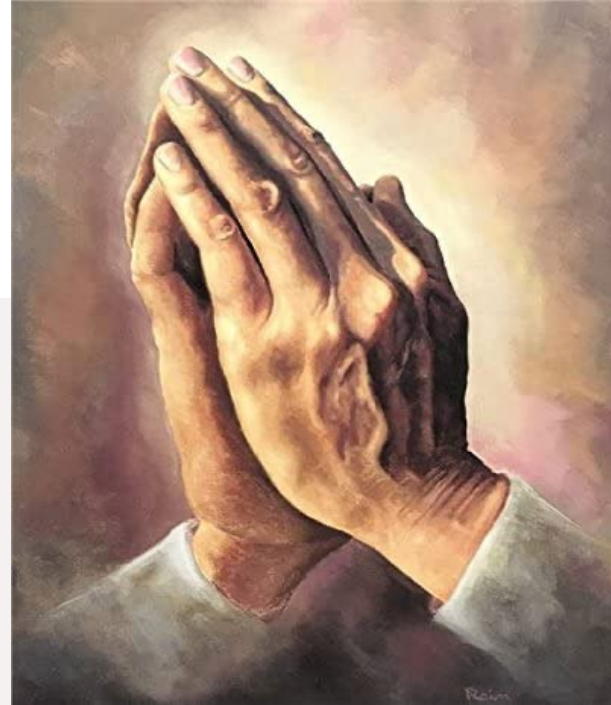


Change Your Autopilot



The Purpose Driven Life

Days 24 & 25



Transformed by Truth

“ But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

~Matthew 4:4



“Sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth”

Spiritual Growth

- ❖ The process of replacing lies with truth
- ❖ God using His words (the Bible) to transform our outlooks and values so we are able to draw near to him
- ❖ Acknowledging the word of God and living life based on the lessons learned in the Bible

However the Bible is much more than a doctrinal guidebook....

God chose US!

St. James points out, "God decided to give us life through the word of truth so we might be the most important of all the things he made"

The Bible...

- ★ **Generates life**
- ★ **Initiates change**
- ★ **Frightens the devil**
- ★ **Heals us from the inside out**
- ★ **Defeats temptation**
- ★ **Cleanses our minds**
- ★ **Builds character**

St. Peter advises us "crave spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" ★



Abiding in God's Word

1. **Accept to its authority** - the Bible must become a priority and direct your life. It must have the first and last word in your life
2. **Assimilate it's truth** - It is not enough to simply believe in the Bible, you must carry out it's words too. This will allow the Holy Spirit to transform you through truth. There are five ways you can do this. Receive it, read it, research it, remember it and reflect on it
3. **Apply its principles** - Carry out what you learned into your daily life

Transformed by Trouble

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”

~2 Corinthians 4:17



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Seeking God Through Hardships

St. Peter says “Don’t be bewildered or surprised when you go through the fiery trials ahead, for this is no strange, unusual thing that is going to happen to you”

There is purpose behind every problem God puts us through. In fact, God allows us to develop our character and reach out to Him through our hardships. Big or small, every hardship holds significance and is a part of God’s growth process for us. Suffering is how we grow.

Romans

8:28-29

28 We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose. 29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his son.

1. **“We know”** - Hope is not based on our positive thinking or optimistic behaviour. Our knowledge is based on certainty because of the truths that are revealed by God. He must be in complete control.
2. **“That God causes”** - There is a grand designer behind everything. Our lives are not a result of fate or luck. It is planned out for us by God, He does not make mistakes.
3. **“Everything”** - This involves ALL things whether good or bad. God has the ability to derive goodness from the worst circumstances.
4. **“To work together”** - We can't work independently. We must work together in God's plan which are interdependent on the actions you chose to take in order to move a step closer to God's righteousness.
5. **“For the good”** - This does not disregard the bad times in our life, it reinforces the idea that goodness can be derived from pain.
6. **“Of those who love God and are called”** - this promise is made for God's children and accept Him. It is not for everyone as some chose to oppose God and insist on having their own way.
7. **“According to his purpose”** - God's purpose is for us to become like his Son

Building Christlike Character

Every problem is a character building opportunity, the more difficult it is the greater potential there will be for building spiritual muscle and moral fibre. Circumstances are temporary but true character lasts forever.

St. Paul said, "We know that these troubles produce patience and patience produces character"

St. James says "under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows it's true colours"

God wants us to be like Jesus; the ideal role model. God did not exempt us from what he allowed his son to experience. *St. Paul says "we go through what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him."*

Responding to Problems as Jesus Would

- ★ *Remember that God's plan is good*
- ★ *Rejoice and give thanks*
- ★ *Refuse to give up*

1. God knows what is best for you - Jeremiah 29:11. In the story of Joseph he says to his brothers “you intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.” It is important to stay focused on God’s plan and not dwell on minor setbacks.
2. The Bible tells us to give thanks in all circumstances. God tells us be thankful IN all circumstances not FOR all circumstances as that would not make sense.
3. Be patient and persistent. The development of character is a slow process. When we try to alter it we delay it even more. This can lead to denial and avoidance. Instead of asking God “why me” try asking him for things you can learn as you undergo tribulations. Don’t give up!

Thanks
for watching