

THE POWER OF A FOCUSED LIFE #1

Eph 5:8-20 (NIV) For you were once darkness, but now **you are light in the Lord**. Live as children of light [9] (for the fruit of the light consists in all **goodness, righteousness and truth**)

[10] and **find out what pleases the Lord**.

[11] **Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness**, but rather expose them. [12] It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

[13] But **everything exposed by the light becomes visible**—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. [14] This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." (*Isa. 60:1 "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you."*)

[15] **Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.**

[17] Therefore **do not be foolish**, but **understand what the Lord's will is**.

[18] **Do not get drunk on wine**, which leads to debauchery. Instead,

be filled with the Spirit, [19] speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, [20] **always giving thanks to God the Father** for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. You are light

- a. (Jesus: Matt 5:14 "you are the light of the world – let your light shine- see your good deeds and praise your father

2. Live as Children of light

- a. In all goodness – what is in the will of the Lord
- b. In all righteousness – what is according to right relationship with God
- c. In all truth – with authenticity and transparency

3. Find out what pleases the Lord

- a. Must live your life as directed by a personal relationship with Jesus

4. Have nothing to do with sin

- a. Fun – but fruitless – nothing but bondage

5. Live in Light – BE THE LIGHT

- a. Allow God to illuminate all of your path
- b. BE THE LIGHT FOR OTHERS

6. BE CAREFUL HOW YOU LIVE – Don't live randomly

- a. Be wise...
- b. Make most of every opportunity
- c. The days are evil... We are surrounded by darkness
- d. Don't be foolish – instead understand what the will of the Lord is
- e. Don't use substances for recreation
- f. INSTEAD – be filled with the Holy Spirit
- g. Give thanks to God – worship

A FOCUSED LIFE CONSISTS OF 3 THINGS...

1. **A LIFE VISION** – Life purpose – What are you here for?
 - a. What does God have you on the planet for
 - b. Jesus had a life vision

- i. Luk 4:16-21 (NIV) He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, [17] and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: [18] "**The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, [19] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**" [20] Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. [21] He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."
 - ii. Joh 18:37 (NIV) "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I **am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth.** Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."
2. **LIFE GOALS** – Life goal, Long terms goals, Short term goals
- a. Must serve your Life Vision
 - i. 1 Jn 3:8 (NIV) The reason the Son of God appeared was **to destroy the devil's work.**
3. **LIFE PATTERN** – A schedule, a life pattern, rhythm of life,
- a. Must serve your life goals
 - i. Luk 5:16 (NIV) But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

1. A LIFE VISION

A LIFE VISION IS NEEDED...

- **Imagine you want to go on vacation**
 - o Your goal is to 1. relax, 2. take time to be with family and 3. enjoy being away from home
- **You decide that you don't want to set a destination or prepare to get there**
 - o You get in your car and decide to go wherever you are feeling like that day
 - o You pack without a knowledge of what you will need
 - o You bring some money, but since this is not the trip of a lifetime.. you don't bring much
 - o You don't bring a map, or your GPS because you don't want to be constrained by plans
- **Results**
 - o You will most likely have some wonderful experiences on the short term
 - o You will spend a lot of your time figuring out "what to do next"
 - Imagine the family fights!
 - o You will not have things that you need – (at the beach with a winter coat)
 - o You may travel in circles
 - No sense of arrival, start or completion
 - o You may run out of money and have to return home early
 - o Some days will be disasters (with no reservations = end up sleeping in the car)
- **Assessment**
 - o Did you have a relaxing time?
 - o Did you have quality time with your family?
 - o Did you enjoy being away from home?

Most Christians don't have a life vision.

- They DO have wonderful successes and experience periodic times of success - BUT
- They spend a lot of their life trying to figure out what to do next
- They travel in circles, often suffering the same defeats & seem to deal with the same issues over and over
- They don't have a sense of accomplishment,
- They often run out of steam and often don't seem to have the resources they need
- They have huge disasters based on bad decisions or that seem to happen at the strangest times

Do you have a life vision that directs every aspect of your life?

- **Can you state it in one sentence?**
- **Do you set it before your eyes – live by it?**

TEXT:

Pro 29:18 (KJVA) Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Pro 29:18 (NKJV) Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

Pro 29:18 (YLT) Without a Vision is a people made naked, And whoso is keeping the law, O his happiness!

(Prov 29:18 NLT) "When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is happy."

- VIS

1. VISION = Divine Revelation – God's will revealed
 - If we don't have an understanding of the will of God...
2. PERISH = Uncovered, Unrestrained, Exposed - Loose, not covered or restrained
 - We are without a covering, without "a road to run on", We ramble all over the place
3. KEEPS = Preserves, Reverses- Obeys
 - Maintains an understanding of and obeys the restraints
4. LAW = Statutes/ Instruction of God - What God has said
 - "The road to run on" – The vision and direction of God
5. HAPPY = Fulfilled & happy, whole- Blessed
 - Living in the blessing of God = Fulfillment

PARAPHRASED:

When people ignore divine guidance (*what God is leading them to do..*)

- there is nothing to protect them (*they are exposed to harm and danger*)
- they run wild (*there is nothing to keep them from damaging themselves*)

But whoever obeys divine guidance (*what God has said*)

- they are blessed and fulfilled (*God keeps them happy and fulfilled*)

WE MUST DEVELOP A LIFE VISION – THIS IS GOD'S DESTINY FOR YOU!

- **A LIFE VISION IS WHAT GOD IS CALLING YOU TO DO IN YOUR LIFETIME**
- **IT MUST BE SPECIFIC**
- **WHAT DO YOU WANT THEM TO SAY ABOUT YOU AT YOUR MEMORIAL SERVICE?**

My EARLY LIFE GOALS

- 1) To be happily married
- 2) To raise functional & godly children
- 3) To Faithfully serve God in ministry
- 4) Financially independent - Not to be poor

2) WE MUST DEVELOP LIFE GOALS THAT SERVE OUR LIFE VISION

- These are MEASUREABLE GOALS that mark our progress
- These goals are ways of testing whether we are on the way toward our LIFE VISION

SOME OF MY LIFE GOALS

- To own a business that would produce income (built and successfully ran a laundromat)
- To graduate from seminary
- To put my kids through college

EACH OF THESE MARK PROGRESS ON THE WAY TO FULFILLMENT OF MY LIFE VISION!

3) WE MUST DEVELOP A LIFE SCHEDULE – Daily activities that support and fulfill our LIFE GOALS

- IF YOU SQUANDER YOUR TIME.. YOU ARE SQUANDERING YOUR DESTINY
- SPECIFICALLY – IF YOU ARE SQUANDERING YOUR HOURS.. YOU ARE SQUANDERING YOUR DESTINY IN GOD!

THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU WORK HARDER.. IT MEANS THAT YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME...

(Eph 5:14-17 NIV) "for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." {15} Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, {16} making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. {17} Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS BY "WITHOUT VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH..."

- WE MUST DISCERN WHAT THE CALLING OF GOD IS ON OUR LIVES
 - o AS INDIVIDUALS
 - o AS THE BODY OF CHRIST TOGETHER

SO THAT WE "ARE RESTRAINED" BY GOD AND ENTER INTO HIS BLESSING

Response:

Let's wait on the Lord, What are you hearing the Lord say regarding a life vision

- It must be SMART
 - o S – Specific
 - o M – Measurable
 - o A – Achievable
 - o R – Relevant
 - o T – Time - bound