

Connection

What would you really like to simplify in your life?

Content

Life Lesson #8: "A life of simple faith proves to be priceless in the end."

A simple faith is not simplistic. To be simplistic is to be misleading. Instead, Jesus makes the truth simple. In Luke 18:17 He explains, "Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

That kind of simplicity will answer questions that may otherwise plague you:

Who am I?

Where did I come from?

Where am I going?

1. What are your answers to those questions?

Remember God

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon describes his own wrestling with the meaning of life. First, he made it complicated by walking away from God's blessings and going after riches and pleasures. But he found all that "utterly meaningless" – like a puff of wind (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

Read Ecclesiastes 12. At the end of the book, Solomon comes to the simple answer, "Remember your Creator." And do it now, before your life is over.

2. How do you react to the subject of death?

3. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. How does Solomon describe "the conclusion of the matter"?

A Life of Prayer

If life is complicated, simplify it with a life of prayer. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Never stop praying." When we pray, we are admitting we need that relationship with God. We can pray, "God, be present with me, please," so that His presence will go with you and even through you to other people.

A Life of Love

“Love one another,” is a command from Jesus (read John 13:34). And loving as Jesus loves is to do so unconditionally and sacrificially in a way that makes the person next to you the most important person on the planet. Share their burden. Pray with them.

5. Has your faith made a difference in someone else’s life? If so, how?

A Life of Belief

Read John 6:29. God sent His son Jesus on a rescue mission. He conquered death so we can live a life of victory. We give Him our sins; He gives us righteousness and He promises to be present with us. It takes a simple trust.

6. Do you trust God?

7. Trust means accepting God’s doctrine, but there is more. In a life of belief we can come to live in the “mystery” of God, where trusting Him leads to understanding that His ways are not our ways. When it’s hard to see God working in pain and suffering, we can say, “I don’t know why that is, but I trust God. His greater work may include suffering.” We may not always be okay with that, but we have to count on the grace of God to give us what we need to take the next step with Him.

Where in your life where you are living in the “mystery” of God, waiting to see Him resolve a place of pain or struggle? Describe what that is like for you.

Commitment

This is the life of simple faith: Trust in the Lord with all your heart...and He will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6) Jesus will make a way for you in this life of simple faith.

Here are just a few ways to remember God:

Love God back.

Never give up on God.

Relieve suffering.

Give.

Pray.

What can you add to this list?

Challenge Assignment: Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6 this week and put these words to heart.