

Week 7

Day One, Misquote of the Bible

“It will all work out for good.”

How many times have you heard this saying in your life? Especially by Christians, “Oh, don’t worry it will all work out.” It comes from quoting Romans 8:28...”And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, “ There is also more to the verse...”for those who are called according to his purpose.” In this chapter of Romans they are contrasting living a life in the flesh to one of the Spirit. When you live your life according to a leading of the Spirit, you know that you are doing exactly what God has called you to do. It starts with YOU making the decision to listen to that small voice inside and doing it.

God can see the bigger picture. He knows the entire story of things to come. Even though there might be bad going on in your life, if you listen and do what he says, he will direct you to the right path in life. A good story to illustrate this would be the life of Joseph. He loved God and trusted him always. Even when his brothers kidnapped him and sold him into slavery, he still trusted God. Go read the entire story and look at all that was going on around him but in the end, God worked it out for a good and he was blessed.

I can’t stress this enough, the key to living a successful life, one lined up in God’s perfect plan is to listen to the Holy Spirit. You want your life to be a reflection of Christ. When people look at what you do, how you act, and what happens in your life, you want them to be excited to be following after such a great God. The goodness of God is what leads people to repentance. Not the bad things. People want help, they want to come up from where they are living and what is going on in their lives, not go down. If they think God might make them sick or make their babies sick with cancer, why would they want to be any part of that? They want a healing God! Someone who will deliver them from the evil things in this life. When they are sick, and people tell them, “you just have to trust him because one day when you get to heaven, your body will be healed.” That is not what they want to hear. They will not be motivated to join your flock! They want a God who will heal them from their sickness now in this life to come!

We have to stop telling people that the bad things are caused from God and that it will be for their benefit! That is an untruth! God is good ALL the time! He doesn’t do bad things to people. People do bad things to themselves when they disobey him and allow the devil access to their life. The devil is the one who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy, not God. Let others know about the goodness of God through a direct reflection of your life. Devote your life to following after His leading and guiding through the Holy Spirit.

Daily Bible reading: Mark 4,5,6

Day two

Avoiding witchcraft

Another positive about living a life after the directing of the Holy Spirit, is that you don't have to guess if you are making the right decision or the wrong decision. When you are faced with something, you ask God for direction in choosing the right path and he tells you, then you do it. You don't question, don't waiver, and don't doubt. When you take those moments and start to question it over and over in your mind, Satan will come and put a little more doubt in there. Just as when Satan came and spoke to Eve, "God didn't really say, that you will die, did he?" He is making her doubt the words she was supposed to obey. Just obey! Plain and simple.

Another thing popular among adults and young people and even some Christian people is looking to the occult for the answers. Reading horoscopes, talking with mediums, and playing games in hopes of getting the answers to life is wrong. It is witchcraft and the bible is clear on avoiding it. Satan uses such self enlightenment powers to draw people away from God.

In the book of Galatians, chapter 5:20 it goes through a list of the people that will NOT inherit the kingdom of God. Sorcery is one of them. The old testament is filled with a numerous amount of warnings against sorcery , divination, and witchcraft. You can do an individual search if you are not convinced.

When you open the door to one of these ways, you are giving Satan access to be in your life. You can't just think you are going to just dabble in it and just "see" if it is true. It is true. Satan has limited power, but he leads people on a path of destruction. He will make it sound like "self-enlightenment" but it leaves them empty and alone. Why would you want to "consult" a force on the dark side that is looking to destroy you, when you have "the Spirit of the Living God" on the inside of you? That living Spirit is alive and wants to bless you and lead you to a life that you could of never imagined. But it begins in trusting and obeying him. Living a life of faith. "Faith IS the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" Hebrews 11:1

Avoid things of the occult, they are evil and should have no part in a Christians life. Listen to the spirit and that is when you will see miraculous things happen! Living a life of faith is your report to the world. It is God's element that he uses to make you memorable. It gives the world a reason to see all of HIS miraculous power. It is living a life of faith.

Daily Bible reading Mark 7,8,9

Day three

Thinking positive thoughts about self

Did you know that Moses was one of the greatest people ever mentioned in the Bible? Of course, Jesus was the Most important, but Moses had a very big responsibility and God used him. Some things you might not know about Moses, was that he was a studding man. Open your Bible and read Exodus 4:10..Moses said to the Lord, "Please, Lord, I am not eloquent. I never was in the past nor am I now since you spoke to your servant. In fact, I talk too slowly and I have a speech impediment." (International Standard Version). Moses also was one of the first interracial marriages. He married a Cushite (Ethopian) woman. Read in Numbers 12:1-16. Just a few facts about Moses. Here he was a man who wasn't what the world would say "the brightest" but God used him in a spectacular way.

It is so important as you are growing and maturing in life that you think of yourself in a positive way. We have many self help books that focus on a teen's self esteem issues and thinking positive thinking to become successful. Those do in fact have a valid ground...the Bible says that "as a man thinks in his heart, so he is." (Proverbs 23:7) That is why I would suggest you speak positively about your life. If you got up every day and said these words out loud, "I'm quick, I'm sharp, and I'm bright," it will change your life. This is especially helpful when you are going through your lessons in school and you can't seem to understand something. Stop and say, "Whatever I read, I will remember it!" "There is no limit to what I can learn or understand or remember."

Speaking these things out, is a key to faith. You want to be successful, you want to be smart, you want to excel in everything that you do. It all begins with you and what your thought mode is. If you keep saying, "Oh, I will never get it. This is too hard. No one understands this sort of schooling." Then naturally, you won't understand it, because you are already setting yourself up for failure. Say to yourself that you are going to get this and you will become successful at whatever you do.

Even if you are "slower" at getting something, don't say, I'm slow. Say, I'm quick! I will get this! Speak those words of positivity in your mouth and they will naturally flow to your heart and soon enough you will begin to believe these things.

For encouragement, read In Isaiah 11:2

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Daily Bible reading: Mark 10,11, 12

Day four

What irritates you the most?

I'm sure you have been around that friend that talks and talks about this problem or that problem that is going on in their life. It seems every time you get around that friend, the same issues keep coming up. Most of the time, it is not pleasant to be around these type of people. But this is a good learning lesson for yourself, think about the sort of things that bother you the most. Take a moment and think about the things that irritate you.....they might be a sibling, a parent, or maybe even a friend. Now think about the things that upset you the most. The things that you might think or talk about over and over again. This might be a situation. Maybe you are the only one not dating in your group of friends. Maybe it seems that everyone else your age has a job or has more freedoms than you do. Think about what sort of things bother you and upsets you at this point in your life.

These things are the "things" that you need to work on. I would strongly suggest that you write them out in a journal of some sort. Maybe your sibling is driving you crazy. Write it out—so that you can acknowledge that you have a problem with it and then begin to work on it. Treat your sibling as Jesus would want you to treat them. Take the time to spend time with them. Work on building your relationships with them. If the things that bothers you the most is that you are the only one in your group not dating. Now look at the bigger picture, is everyone your age dating? Start being content in your situation and see the opportunities that God has placed around you so that you can thrive where He has you.

If you are truly following after God and seeking his guidance in every area, you need to start trusting that He will bring you the right partner at the right time. Don't go looking for them, let the Lord lead you to them. The same is true if your home and you feel like you don't have opportunities to do much because of family situations. Start praying and seeking God for guidance to know what to do. He will bring you the best situations that will work exactly for you. The key is to trust. Yes, you can go out on your own and find a person to date, or find a situation that you think is going to make you happy, but the reality is, if you don't let the Lord do it, it will not work out perfectly. You want stress free and the perfect will of the Lord. That begins with you completely trusting Him to guide you. We have learned a lot about letting him lead you and listening to the Holy Spirit so that you know where to go and who to talk to, I can't stress that enough how important that is. It is the entire foundation of living a life of faith.

Daily bible reading: Mark 13,14,15, 16

Congratulations! You have finished another book of the New Testament.

Keep in mind the last part of this chapter 16....Do what God says to do and God will confirm with signs that it is the RIGHT thing for you to do!

Day five

Don't waiver

Do you ever question your decisions and choices in life? After you make them, you think to yourself, "Was that the right decision to make?" or "Ohhh, I should have chosen the other option." When you let the Holy Spirit guide and lead you, there is not questioning or wavering at all. You ask, He guides, and you follow. Simple as that. In James 1:5, it states, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double minded man, unstable in all his ways."

Look at that verse...if anyone lacks, ask God—simple right? Then God gives GENEROUSLY, not half full, or just enough to get by, he gives GENEROUSLY—which is more than enough. Then there is the next part, BUT.....there is a stipulation that is connected with asking:) But ask in FAITH, without doubting. He expects you to trust that He will give you what you need. He goes on to explain that the one who doesn't trust, is like the wave of a sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. They constantly move back and forth. One minute they are one way, the next minute they are the other way onto something else. He doesn't want you to be that way. He wants you stable. Like a rock. Set and secure. A person who knows where they are going, or at least that there is a person leading them to where they are going.

When something starts to go wrong....right away say, "Glory to God! He has something better for me!" Watch your mouth---if you start doubting and begin saying things like, "Oh, see I knew I shouldn't have done that!" You are immediately doubting God, you are like that wave, you are being swayed by what is going on in your surroundings, not trusting what God is going to do next. You need to keep the faith and stay with it. Otherwise you are giving Satan access to being messing with you on this decision. And he will. He knows that you are working on being stable and he wants to come and mess you all up. Don't let him.

Daily reading : Luke 1,2,3