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notice of something that did not need to be done right now, but we wanted to do it. Through our eyes we see, then meditate, then desire treasures. **Matthew 6:21** says, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The love of money is one such distraction... You can not serve God and money. **1 Timothy 6:10** "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

3. Pride of life: One example of the devil using our pride is when we get angry quickly--our pride causes us to say and do things hastily. We also make bad decisions because we love ourselves, and love people respecting us. Our pride causes us to view other people only in terms of how what they can do for us, not what do they need from us.

4. Fear: Fear is like a fingerprint of the devil at work. (**1 Peter 5:8** ...because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion...) The safe direction is actually the same direction we hear the roar of the toothless lion, because if we flee the direction he wants us to go, the young lions are waiting in the bushes. Fear is also a sign of the past sins OR sins done against us. Most of our fear is not of God. Our adversary uses fear to get us to disobey. Saul lost his right to be king through fear.

5. Lies: Probably all of the temptations we face are contain partial lies, deception, untruths that would mislead our decision making. Eve was deceived by partial truth and an outright lie.

Why seek God?

Isaiah 48:17-18 "Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:"

What will cause God to give you favor?

Psalms 5:12 "For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with **favour** wilt thou compass him as *with* a shield."

Proverbs 11:27 "He that diligently seeketh good procureth **favour**: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him."

Proverbs 14:35 "The king's *favour* is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is *against* him that causeth shame."

Proverbs 3:3-4 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find **favour** and good understanding in the sight of God and man." (mercy and truth)

Proverbs 8:35 "For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain **favour** of the LORD." (find wisdom)

First of all, the favor of God is for the just; a sinner can become just through faith in the grace of God. (See below how to become just and receive the forgiveness of God.) If you are not forgiven and saved through his Son, there is no favor with God; God sees your sins and cannot say that you are just! A righteous and wise man will admit the truth to God: "Dear Jesus, I am a sinner and I need your forgiveness--have mercy on me and save me!"

What makes a person just?

Romans 1:17 "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

Romans 8:33 "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that **justifieth**."

2 Corinthians 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye **through his** poverty might be rich."

Galatians 3:11 "But that no man is **justified** by the law in the sight of God, *it is evident*: for, The **just** shall live by faith."

Galatians 3:24 "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be **justified** by faith."

Romans 5:9 "Much more then, being now **justified** by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear."

3. General: Proverbs 13:10 "Only by pride cometh contention..."

(humble yourself before talking to people.)

Proverbs 25:8 "Go not forth hastily to strive, lest lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame." Proverbs 25:9 "Debate thy cause with thy neighbor himself; and discover not a secret to another:"

Proverbs 26:4 "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him."

Proverbs 22:10 "Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out: yea, strife and reproach shall cease."

4. You cannot avoid all conflict, but we should try to please others: 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."

Why am I discouraged?

1. physically weak and tired: 1 Kings 19:3-4 "And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers."

2. Disobedience (Saul, Moses): **Psalms 84:11** "...No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

3. Not trusting in God: Psalm 84:12 "O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."

3. God has provided for our salvation through Jesus Christ, not through our merits.

Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

II Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

God has a gift for you. You can't earn it. It is free. (**Ephesians 2:8-9**) Jesus died for us. (**Romans 5:8**) Jesus was buried. (**Acts 13:29**) God raised him from the dead. (**Acts 13:30**)

4. Call on Jesus for him to save you.

Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 10:9-11, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Since Jesus died on a cross for you, wouldn't you be willing to trust him to save you?

Example prayer:

Dear Jesus, I accept you as my Saviour forever. Forgive me of all my sins. Please take me to Heaven when I die; and save me from Hell. Thank you for dying for me. I ask you to save me forever--with all of my heart, Amen.

Ephesians 1:7 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the **forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of his grace;"

The moment you believe on Jesus Christ, you are redeemed, forgiven, and saved from hell. If you want him to forgive you, did you trust His promises this moment? Do not just "say a prayer," but put your faith in Him. Call on him with all your heart!

How do I find the hidden will of God?

You do not find the hidden will of God while disobeying the revealed will of God. **Ezekiel 20:31** "...ye make your sons pass through the fire...and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord God, I will not be enquired of by you."

Often in the Bible God does not reveal his will until people obey him, trusting him to provide a way. (Such as when Moses came to the red sea.)

How do I do good to those who do evil?

1. Humble yourself: I Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." Loose your rights.

Mathew 23:12 "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

2. Forgiveness: Prepare forgiveness **before** people sin against you. Prepare your heart...we should be ready to forgive. **Romans 12:19** "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. **Matthew 6:15** "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." **Matthew 18:35** "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye **from your hearts** forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

3. Prayer: Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

4. Do good: Look for a way to be a blessing! Luke 6:33 "And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same." **Galatians 6:10** "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

3. We are commanded to follow Jesus (John 12:26.) Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus commanded us to be baptized after believing on Him.
4. Faith is exercised in steps (Romans 4:12, Hebrews 6:1). If we do not obey the easy, how will we obey the harder commands?

How do you break off iniquity and sin?

Daniel 4:27 "Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity."

Psalms 119:2-3 "Blessed *are* they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart." They also **do no iniquity**: they walk in his ways."

How do you know the will of God?

Proverbs 3:6 "In all thy ways **acknowledge** him, and he shall **direct** thy paths."

John 6:39 "And this is the Father's **will** which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."

(It is God's will that Christians stay saved forever.)

Proverbs 18:1 "Through **desire** a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom."

Proverbs 2:3-6 "Yea, if thou **criest after** knowledge, and liftest **up thy voice** for understanding; If thou **seekest** her as silver, and **searchest** for her as *for* hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding."

James 1:5-6 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him **ask** of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him **ask in faith, nothing wavering**. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

Luke 12:33 "Sell that ye have, and give alms; **provide** yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth." --God tells us to provide things in heaven.

6. Love -- Laying down our life for the good of our children.

Proverbs 23:26 "My son, **give me** thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways."

It seems that most of the work is in vain unless the heart of the child is captured by the one who is training the child, whether it be mother, father, grandmother, Sunday-school teacher, etc. We need to get the heart, so we can bring a child into the land of wisdom, so we can teach the child to love and fear God.

Investment of life and time may start with praying for them. God said about Job "...and my servant Job shall **pray for** you: for him will I accept..."

There are many characteristics to love that we need. I **Corinthians 13:4-5** says, "Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;" Part of love is to make the child **feel loved**. Praise for doing right is often more powerful incentive than chastisement. We are trying to guide the child's heart to God, not just correct wrong actions.

7. Teaching right paths -- To show the way that God has chosen; and even better, how to make right decisions.

Proverbs 3:7 says, "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil."

Proverbs 4:11 says, "I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths." God wants children to learn integrity. God said to us in **Proverbs 11:3**, "The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them." **Proverbs 19:1** says,

How do you get wisdom?

Proverbs 2:7 "He layeth up **sound wisdom** for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly." (**Our actions affect how much wisdom we receive!**)

Ecclesiastes 2:26 "For *God* giveth to a man that is good in his sight **wisdom**, and knowledge, and joy:..."

Proverbs 14:6 "A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth."

Psalms 111:10 "The fear of the Lord is the **beginning of wisdom**: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."

Proverbs 17:16 "Wherefore is *there* a price in the hand of a fool to **get wisdom**, seeing *he hath no heart to it*?"

What does God require of you?

Micah 6:8 "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD **require** of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

1 Corinthians 4:2 "Moreover it is **required** in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

Ecclesiastes 3:15 "That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God **requireth that which is past**."

Deuteronomy 10:12 "And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God **require** of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,"

Deuteronomy 18:19 "And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will *require it* of him."

Ezekiel 3:18 "When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I **require** at thine hand."

How does a person escape "the wrath to come"?

Matthew 3:7 "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O

2. Training -- training a child to love doing right, to train a child to enjoy the taste of righteousness.

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This is talking about training a child to savor and enjoy the ways that God wants him to go, and to enjoy the prudent and wise ways of fearing God.

Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep thy heart with **all diligence**; for out of it *are* the issues of life." As applied to raising children, this verse teaches us that we need to get the child's heart so we can train them. Someday they will make their own decisions; therefore, if they do not love to obey their parents, how can the parents teach them to love and obey God? Loving obedience is not very natural--**Proverbs 22:15** says, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." (Note that the "rod of correction" is for correction, not for abuse, not a rod of anger.) The correct application of discipline shows love.

3. Discipline -- providing the correction necessary to protect from wrong, sinful, evil and bad ways.

God corrects us so that we learn holiness—why? Because God is love. God knows that sin will destroy us. Discipline is supposed to be an expression of love. Correction in anger is usually an expression of "I don't like you" or at best "I don't like your actions" and does little or nothing to help a child learn to love righteousness. Carefulness in discipline is necessary to show love.

Discipline with anger usually provokes anger and God commands us twice: **Ephesians 6:4** "And, ye fathers, **provoke not** your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." **Colossians 3:21** "Fathers, **provoke not** your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged."

It seems that the amount of love a child perceives determines how much correction and rules they can accept. James 3:17 "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Pray for understanding.)

What are the principles that give victory over sin?

1. Remember Christ's love.

II Corinthians 5:14 "For the **love of Christ** constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:" (His love makes me do what my sinful nature does not want to do.)

Jeremiah 17:1-2 "The sin of Judah *is* written with a pen of iron, *and* with the point of a diamond: *it is* graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars; **Whilst their children remember** their altars and their groves by the green trees upon the high hills." (Thinking on sin prevents me from getting victory over sin.)

2. Meditate on the Bible, put it in my heart.

Psalms 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine **heart**, that I **might not sin** against thee."

3. Control my lips.

Proverbs 10:19 "In the multitude of words there wanteth not **sin**: but he that refraineth his lips is wise."

4. Fear God.

Psalms 4:4 "Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah."

5. Seek God's counsel, God's wisdom.

Isaiah 30:1 "Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add **sin** to sin:"

6. Do righteousness.

Daniel 4:27 "Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and **break off** thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity."

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

What can you do to cause God to promise you long life?

Ephesians 6:1-3 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

What is the secret to being a disciple?

John 8:31 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word**, then are ye my disciples indeed;"

Luke 14:33 "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that **forsaketh** not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." (Forsaking means that I give all to God, that He has control over everything.)

Matthew 6:21 "For where your **treasure** is, there will your heart be also. "

What can separate you from God's love if he accepts you?

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

What are the sins that God hates most?

Leviticus 20:13 "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an **abomination**: they shall surely be put to death; their blood *shall be* upon them."

Deuteronomy 7:25 "The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold *that is* on them, nor take *it* unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it *is* an **abomination** to the LORD thy God."

Proverbs 3:32 "For the froward **is abomination** to the LORD: but his secret *is* with the righteous."