

January 12, 2014

GOD'S SECRET TO A SUCCESSFUL LIFE

Making Godly Change A Reality

Romans 12:1-13

Our lives are a precious gift from God. We have been given the responsibility of being a steward, or caretaker of His creation. It begins by taking a hard look at our lives and examining our bodies and actions through the eyes of the Lord. Success in God's eyes begins by following His prescription for a healthy and holy life. This means that we must be committed to Godly change.

1. We trust in our awesome God.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy..."

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us..."

Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

2. We commit our bodies to God.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship." **Romans 12:1 (NIV)**

a. By cleansing my body.

"Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God." **2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV)**

b. By caring my body.

"No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body, which is the church." **Ephesians 5:29 (NLT)**

c. By controlling my body.

"...each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable..." **1 Thessalonians 4:4 (NIV)**

3. We refocus our minds.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--His good, pleasing and perfect will." **Romans 12:2 (NIV)**

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)

4. We humbly assess our current state.

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you." **Romans 12:3 (NIV)**

5. We get encouragement, help, and support from each other!

"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of His one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others." **Romans 12:4-5 (NLT)**

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)**

6. We fill our lives with love!

“Don’t just pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”

Romans 12:9-10 (NLT)

7. We nurture our passion and enthusiasm!

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

Romans 12:11-12 (NIV)

“I can do all things through Him (Christ) who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:13 (NASB)

*“Blessed are those who reject the advice of evil people, who do not follow the example of sinners or join those who have no use for God. Instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night. They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. **They succeed in everything they do.**”* **Psalm 1:1-3 (TEV)**