

# Foundational Principles for **Christian Living**

A Study of Biblical Principles Needed to Live Life Pleasing to God

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# From Knowledge to Wisdom

*God's desire is to establish a core of individuals and families into which He can build His Word, so that they can live and share that truth in a lost world.*

## **Three Levels of Responding to Truth**

### **I. Knowledge** - Accumulating facts

John 14:7-11

### **II. Understanding** - Knowing the meaning and the significance of the facts accumulated

James 2:19

### **III. Wisdom** - Applying knowledge and understanding to one's own life

Proverbs 2:2

## **Conclusion**

***The wise believer daily applies God's Word to His or Her own life.***

1. Applying truth daily in our lives necessitates tracing our problems to violations of God's Word and correcting them in light of God's Word.
2. Applying truth daily in our lives also necessitates responding to life's situations/ circumstances using the precepts and principles of God's Word.

# Four Steps of Going from Knowledge to Wisdom

Discerning levels of conflict, tracing problems to root causes, and then accepting and following what God has to say as the only solution.

## I. Identify the Surface Problem

(Symptom)

## II. Identify the Surface Cause

(Underlying Attitude)

## III. Identify the Root Problem

(Character Flaw)

Matthew 5:3-12 *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

Galatians 5:22-23

## IV. Identify the Root Cause

(Wrong response to God's Word)

# Benefits from Problems Handled God's Way

Most of us want \_\_\_\_\_ to our problems, but God wants \_\_\_\_\_ in us and those around us. He is also very concerned about the \_\_\_\_\_ of our problem solving not just the actual resolution.

*Often we want to get out from under the pressure of our problems, but God wants to use that pressure to motivate and mold us to a greater level of spiritual maturity.*

## Five Benefits of Biblical Problem Solving

### I. Receiving More \_\_\_\_\_

Grace is -

Philippians 2:13 *for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

James 4:6 *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

God \_\_\_\_\_ the proud \_\_\_\_\_ to the humble.

Nothing is more humbling than experiencing conflicts we cannot solve ourselves, especially when others know about our problems. **BUT** this is the very experience that God uses...

-to break our \_\_\_\_\_

-to give us \_\_\_\_\_

-and to teach us to \_\_\_\_\_

This grace will be the prompting of God's Spirit to accomplish four additional benefits God intends to bring about from handling our problems His way.

## **II. Self \_\_\_\_\_**

1 Corinthians 11:31-32 & Hebrews 12:6

When things are going well, self-examination is usually neglected. When conflict comes, there is more motivation to search out our inner motives, actions, words and attitudes of the heart.

Proverbs 20:27

Proverbs 6:23

Proverbs 12:1

## **III. New \_\_\_\_\_ Into Scripture**

Vast areas of Scripture will never be meaningful to us until we go through the experiences of which they give insight.

Proverbs 1:23 & 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

## **IV. Strengthening the \_\_\_\_\_**

Ephesians 3:16-18

It is God's intention to use problems as a motivating factor to bring a family closer together as well as closer to Him.

## **V. Unity in the \_\_\_\_\_**

We are to \_\_\_\_\_ for one another.

We are to \_\_\_\_\_ one another's burdens.

We are to \_\_\_\_\_ with one another in victories and blessings.

We are to \_\_\_\_\_ from one another.

# Self Acceptance

## Introduction

It is crucial to form biblical attitudes about ourselves.

Not self image -- wrong development -- 2 Corinthians 10:12

Me compared to \_\_\_\_\_ in order to gain \_\_\_\_\_

But self acceptance -- right development -- 2 Corinthians 10:17-18

Me as God made me compared to \_\_\_\_\_ in order to  
gain \_\_\_\_\_

## **Accepting God's Design -- Self Acceptance**

### **I. The Principle Involved**

A. Psalm 139:14-16

We are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ made,  
and God \_\_\_\_\_ us.

B. Isaiah 45:9-10 and Romans 9:20-21

We must not question the way \_\_\_\_\_ made us.

C. The balance of truth on the subject....

If you reject the \_\_\_\_\_, you will reject the \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. The Application

Developing the right biblical attitude towards ourselves

### A. Facts to be believed as true

1. It is foolish to question God's ways.
  - Isaiah 45:9-10
  - Romans 9:20-21
2. God's basic purpose in creating us is that we grow & know Him.
  - John 17:3
  - Philippians 3:8
3. God is good and has prescribed even our unchangeable features.
  - Psalm 34:8
  - Psalm 139:14-16
4. God is not finished with us yet.
  - Philippians 1:6
  - Ephesians 2:10

***We are to develop the inward qualities of Jesus (Romans 8:29). Therefore our features, frame, defectus, and life situations highlight God's unique message through us (1 Corinthians 1:27, 29, 31; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10).***

### B. Correct those defects we can change.

### C. Accept those defects that we cannot change.

1. Attach new meaning to uncorrectable defects by making them...
  - marks of \_\_\_\_\_
  - motivation to \_\_\_\_\_
  - means of \_\_\_\_\_
2. Thank God for the way He made you.
3. Allow God to complete the process of making you like His Son.