

How to Truly Live Responsibly

DO NOT be misled by self - Prov 28:26 He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

***This covers when we either follow our confidence despite God or we are hindered by our insecurities instead of relying on God.**

We must not allow the world to deceive us into trusting worldly strength which in turn will deny us TRUE strength - 2 Cor 12:9-10 - 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS**." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 **That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties**. For **WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG**.

Worldly wisdom is extremely deceptive and disastrous if you rely on it - 1 Cor 3:18-23 - 18 **Do not deceive yourselves**. If any one of you thinks he is **wise by the standards of this age, HE SHOULD BECOME A "FOOL"** so that he may become wise. 19 For **the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight**. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; 20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." 21 So then, **no more boasting about men!** All things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all are yours, 23 and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God. (1 Cor 2:12-15)

NO MAN here on earth can be seen as the standard - 2 Cor 10:12-14 - 12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they **measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise**. 13 **We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits**, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you.

Our relationship with others MUST BE driven by GOD ONLY - Matt 16:21-23 - 21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. 22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, **"Get behind me, Satan! YOU ARE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO ME; YOU DO NOT HAVE IN MIND THE THINGS OF GOD, BUT THE THINGS OF MEN."**

What God allows me to do with the power he provides me, I do it and at times should be paid for it. However; only the part of my life that is driven by faith, truly benefits me - Rom 4:4-6 - 4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, **but as an obligation**. 5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. 6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

The worlds version of success can lead to an eternal disaster - Mark 8:36-37 - 36 **What good is it for a man to GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, yet FORFEIT HIS SOUL?** 37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

***Be careful not to put worldly aspirations before Godly responsibilities**

Do not make ANYONE your purpose for what you do, this will put both you and them in danger - Matt 10:37-39 - 37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38 and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

The purpose of the wealth we have is not for our pleasure, though pleasure in it is not wrong, the pleasure MUST NEVER be the purpose, it is for us to use to represent God - Luke 16:10-11 - 10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling **worldly wealth**, who will trust you with **true riches?** (See **Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19-31)** and **Warning to the rich (James 5:1-6)**)

The value system that is based on God, invests in God ONLY - Matt 6:19-21 - 19 "**DO NOT STORE UP for yourselves treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But **STORE UP for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

We must recognize every aspect of our lives depends on God's will only - James 4:13-17 - 13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "IF IT IS THE LORD'S WILL, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, **you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil**. 17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

Jesus shows that only relying on God's Word will keep us protected - Matt 4:1-11 - "**It is written**, For it is written, "It is also written: For it is written:

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS

We can't help how and where we are born, nonetheless; no matter the place in life we receive, we all have the same responsibility to **obey God**- 1 Cor 7:17-20 - 17 Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. 18 Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. **KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDS IS WHAT COUNTS**.

We cannot choose every situation we will be in, but no matter what situations we are in, we **MUST** represent God -1 Cor 7:20-24 - 20 Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. 21 Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you — although if you can gain your freedom, do so.22 For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, each man, AS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD, should remain in the situation God called him to.

*We must be conscious of what the Devil's plan is. As shown in Gen 3, He wanted man to stop using God only for answers, (Do not eat from the Tree.) but he wanted man to depend on self ("the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ") and eternally fail.