

HOW TO MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT

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Personal Leadership

Personal leadership is the ongoing process of keeping your vision and values before you and aligning your life to be congruent with those important things. Take charge of your life. You choose what you will become.

We must be effective with our life. Effectiveness does not depend on how much effort we expend but on whether or not the effort we expend is in the right place. Effective management without efficient leadership is like “straightening the deck chairs on the Titanic.”

Here are steps to take to make your life count:

- **Self Discipline** is essential.

You need disciplined thoughts followed by disciplined actions.

(1 Cor. 9:25) And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

(1 Cor. 9:27) But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

(2 Cor. 10:5) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

- **Write out Bible verses to memorize on 3”x5” cards.**

Examples of Bible verses for you may be:

Brevity of Life

(James 4:14) Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Divine Help

(Isa. 40:31) But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Personal Temperance

(1 Cor. 9:27) But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Controlling Thoughts

(2 Cor. 10:5) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

- **Form a Mission Statement**

Zig Ziglar has said, “Don’t be a wandering generality – be a meaningful specific.” The path to becoming a meaningful specific is to form a mission statement, set goals and then carry out your plan.

A mission statement helps you to know what really counts which helps you to do what really counts. You decide beforehand your purpose in life and then you discipline your life to fit within that purpose.

Develop self-discipline to work within your mission statement. This leads to a progressive realization of a pre-determined goal. The Mission Statement of a Christian could include the following:

Realizing that one day I will stand face-to-face before my Savior, and the Judge of all the earth:

- † I endeavor to start each day with Bible and prayer.
- † I endeavor to be dead to self, Spirit-filled and Bible-led. I will pursue the love of Christ and the love of souls.
- † I endeavor to be faithful to my wife, to love her, cherish her, and dwell together as one flesh.
- † I endeavor to love my children unconditionally.
- † I endeavor to... (Make your own mission statement)

- **List the Roles and Areas of Your Life and What You Want To Do in Each Role and Area**

Each of us has many roles: Husband, Dad, Church Member, Employee, Home Owner, etc.

There are also many areas that make up our life: Spiritual Life, Mind, Emotional Life, Physical Health, Personal Finances, etc.

Make a wish list for each role and area, and decide what you will do for each role and area this year.

- **Set Goals**

Review the list that you made in each role and area and pick out that which you will accomplish this year. Develop & focus on your strengths. Put your best efforts where there is the most potential.

(1 Cor. 9:26) I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

- **Prioritize**

Practice the Pareto Principle: 20% of your priorities will give 80% return. Do what gives the greatest return for your life. You cannot overestimate the unimportance of practically everything! Good is the enemy of best.

- **Create and Maintain a Daily and Weekly Schedule**

A person who creates goals without a plan to carry them out is nothing more than a daydreamer. Review your prioritized goals and then chart them each week and each day.

Church Involvement

Your personal leadership gives you stability, but your beliefs of the church and missions give you effectiveness and purpose. God works in and through a church.

- **Determine to Do the Will of God.**

The will of God:

- Gives peace, usefulness and rewards
- Is not always easy, lucrative or popular
- Is never foolish, impossible or selfish

- **Become lost in a cause greater than itself.**

(Matthew 16:24-25) Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

You need to join the church that God leads you to and then get lost in its cause. It is the will of God for every believer to get lost in the cause of his / her local church.

(1 Timothy 3:15) But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

- **Become lost in the cause of world missions.**

Get involved in a church that is missions-minded and missions-hearted. It is the will of God for each church (a body) to get lost in the cause of world missions.

The New Testament plan is for believers to get lost in the cause of Christ within their church and then for their church to get lost in the cause of missions, which is church planting.

Other keys to the Christian Life:

- Obey the Word of God
 - Consecrated Living
 - Depend on God
 - Zeal for Lost
 - Love People
 - Do Little Things to Show You Love People
 - Look at Problems as Opportunities to Build Relationships
- Be Filled with Spirit
 - Die to Self
 - Be Sold Out for Christ
 - Care for Souls
 - Pray, pray, pray