

# *Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church*

Teaching Ministry

10.5.2025

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

If The Lord Will, What Not To Do

## **James 4: 13 – 15**

As we continue to answer the question, for what is your life, we see that our life is based upon either being a believer or a non-believer. As a believer, in order, to build our life in Christ, we will have to make choices, and these choices will define the strength of our faith, and our trust, in the Lord. All that we do, or all that we do not do, according to the truth of God's word will directly affect our ability to remain humble, and obedient in our life as a believer. Therefore, our life as a believer is be based upon our relationship with God, which comes through faith believing in his Son, Christ Jesus. The spirit of God, which indwells within us, through salvation, instills within our hearts and our minds an understanding of the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, so that we might glorify God through all that we do.

So, if we would be truthful and honest in our life, sometimes we just do not feel like doing those things that we know that we should be doing for the Lord, and that is all part of the choices in which we must make in our life in Christ. For this reason, the word of God shows unto us those things which we should do, and also it shows unto us the things that we should not be doing in order to build our life in Christ. Last week we worked on the to do list, this week we will take a look at, what not to do, and at the top of the list, we should say, that we will never give up on God. Therefore, when life's situations and circumstances seem overwhelming, do not turn from God, but turn to God, for he will never give up on us.

**1 Peter 5: 6 - 11,....**humble yourselves....under the mighty hand of God....casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you....be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour....whom resist steadfast in faith....but the grace of God....make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, and settle you....to him be glory and dominion for ever....

It is not Gods will that we should live our life under the heavy weight of worldly burdens, and it should not come as a surprise unto us to find out that we cannot manage our daily problems on our own. So, where did we go wrong in our life, it was when we made the choice to allow our old sinful nature, which we inherited from Adam, which is full of self-righteousness and worldly pride, that we made the choice to try and manage the situations and circumstances in our life, on our own. Remember, God will freely give unto us his strength, his mercy, his grace, and his love, but first we must admit to our worldly weaknesses and inabilities and we must learn to trust wholly and completely in him.

**2 Corinthians 12: 10,....**therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ sake, for when I am weak, then am I strong....

If we listen to the old nature, there will never be contentment in our lives, and if we just read the word of God without understanding it, and applying it to our life, then we will still have discontentment. So, what is it that helps us to find contentment in our life, and that is, we must stop looking for contentment for our own selfish, worldly desires, and we must look for it for the sake of Christ.

**2 Corinthians 4: 14 - 18,....**knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us....for which cause we faint not....for our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceedingly and eternal weight of glory....

As believers, we must be willing, to see all things in our life through the love of God, so that we might look past the discontentment in our lives, and look unto the glory that is given unto us, which came through the pain and the suffering that Christ bore for all of mankind on the cross, and then, and only then, will we recognize the ability, to see our discontentment, and we see it through grace, and through patient endurance, with unspeakable joy. For our discontentment is but an opportunity to prepare us for a glorified future, which has no limitations, and it will remain for all eternity.

**Matthew 11: 28 - 30**,....come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest....take my yoke upon you....and ye shall find rest unto your souls....for my yoke is easy and my burden is light....

Bondage due to sin is a burden that all of humanity must carry, but through the work of Christ on the cross we can find comfort, and rest for our soul. This rest is an eternal rest, that cannot be earned or purchased and is free to whomsoever will come.

So, let us go to the book of Romans, and one of the things that Paul tells us not to do while building our life in Christ, and that is not to be conformed to this world.

**Romans 12: 1- 3**,....ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service....be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God....not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think....

It is our responsibility of service unto the Lord, to yield the entirety of our lives, our whole selves, and our bodies unto him, each and every day. This is because our lives, are a reflection of Christ, who was a living sacrifice for us, therefore, we are to be a living sacrifice unto others. Now, this takes daily transformation, by the renewing of our minds, and it is a lifelong process that requires perseverance. This daily process is a freewill choice to keep our focus upon Christ, so that our minds are fixed upon those things that are truthful and honest, just and pure, wholesome, godly, and of good report. It is a very true statement that in our life, we will become like that which captivates our heart the most, and that which we spend the most time in the presence thereof. As we set our minds upon Christ, then, we will of necessity, be conformed unto his will.

So, what is it that brings about the conformity to the worldliness in our life? It is the desires of our flesh.

**Galatians 5: 16 - 17**,....walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh....the flesh lusteth against the spirit....so that ye cannot do the things that ye would....

As believers, we are commanded by the word of God to live a spiritual life in Christ, and that means to live in the spirit, pray in the spirit, and walk in the spirit. We can only do this when we place our lives in God's complete control, by submitting to his will, and to his authority. When we are submissive to his leadership, and obedient to his correction, we will then trust in his word and listen to his voice, and depend wholly and completely upon him. Submitting ourselves to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit by grace, through faith, enables us to live as God intended for us to live.

Now, the last thing that I want to mention when it comes to building our life in Christ, is not to have worldly fear.

**Matthew 10: 28,....**fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul, but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell....

Persecution is an adversary that we will face every day in our life in Christ, and if we are not steadfast in our faith then it will cause us to falter and stumble in our spiritual life. But through the strength of the Holy Spirit, we must not respond to persecution with worldly fear. For when this happens then sin is the direct result of it, this is displeasing unto God. An effective way to replace worldly fear with a growing faith, is by seeking first the kingdom of God in our lives.

**Matthew 6: 33,....**for your heavenly father knoweth that you have need of all things....seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness....take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself, sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof....

God's word gives unto us many uplifting promises when it comes to our useless fretting, worry, and anxiety, and this is caused by the choices that we make, when we are deceived, and doubt arises in our life, which causes us to question our necessity of relying upon the Lord. Our thoughts, and our spiritual pursuit should be on the eternal kingdom of God and helping others secure the saving grace of Jesus Christ in their lives, while patiently waiting on the return of Christ. So, let us learn to develop a right perspective in God, so that we may exchange our natural thinking for spiritual wisdom. We must always remember that God is able to do far more abundantly than we could ever understand. Therefore, let us make God our main focus when it comes to building our life in Christ, and let us always remember that if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Let us Pray.

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