

TEN PRINCIPLES [from Joe McCormack]

The “fully devoted follower of Christ” will....

ESTABLISH FOUNDATIONS FOR THE DEVOTED LIFE

STUDY THE BIBLE: “correctly handle the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15)

- Discern between traditions and God’s inviolate principles
- Listen to sermons/Bible lesson in light of God’s word (not in terms of personal agenda)

READ THE BIBLE: “[examine] the scriptures every day” (Acts 17:11)

- Read the Bible through every year (AM)
- Investigate one topic a month; outline findings daily and write them in a journal (PM)

PRAY: “pray continually” (I Thess. 4:17)

- Select one person daily to remember in prayer (at least ten times?)
- Establish a daily prayer list; carry it and go through it each day; change it weekly

LIVE OUT THE ACTIONS OF THE DEVOTED LIFE

FORGIVE: “forgive as the Father forgave” (Col. 3:13)

- Identify fellow Christians who have offended and seek them out to make friends with them
- Pray for those who have been offensive
- List the sins God has forgiven in my life (But I don’t have enough time!)

EVANGELIZE: “go and make disciples” (Matt. 28:19)

- Give to the regular contribution and special missions contribution to support missionaries
- Memorize and recite the scriptural principles necessary for salvation
- Write these principles out every week
- Begin conversations and steer those conversations to God

ENCOURAGE: “[speak] the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15)

- Praise family members, fellow workers, and other disciples for jobs well done
- Downplay jobs not well done
- Distinguish between words that tear down and words that build up

REFLECT THE ATTITUDES OF THE DEVOTED LIFE

LOVE: “love one another” (John 13:34)

- Smile at everyone
- Share time and possessions
- Give someone a gift anonymously (once a week)

HANDLE ANGER: “not let the sun go down while [I am] still angry” (Eph. 4:26)

- Seek out the source of anger and remove, overcome, or moderate it
- Evaluate the reasons that anger is present

BE CONTENT: “be content whatever the circumstances” (Phil. 4:11)

- Express appreciation regardless of the situation
- Choose to be satisfied
- Demonstrate satisfaction as a model for children

BE THANKFUL: “give thanks in all circumstances” (I Thess. 5:18)

- Say “thank you” more than twenty times a day
- Select an “hourly blessing” to thank God for through the day; set a silent alarm as a reminder
- Set aside a time each week to write thank you notes to family and friends