

Three Essentials for Daily Christianity
Bob Young
January 1, 2010

Many Christians say they want to live the Christian life, but regularly fail to reach that goal in the face of the challenges that come in the daily grind of life. I want to pray, I want to read the Bible, I want to be a dedicated follower of Jesus, but the activities of life get in the way. The good intentions and the plans that are made are too easily given up for the easy chair and whatever “entertainment” the TV may offer for the evening.

Here are three essentials for daily life in Christ.

PURPOSE. We must seek, identify, and honor God’s purpose. What is God’s purpose for us? Life is never all it can be until we know the purpose of our existence. Essential to Christianity is life with purpose—knowing why we are on this earth, identifying the unique niche that we occupy in the eternal plan of God, and anticipating what God has in store for us.

Keeping God’s purpose in mind delivers us from the good to the best. Keeping our purpose in mind helps us to make good decisions each day. There is no reward or joy in going after purposes or goals that don’t matter or aren’t worth the effort. Yet, many people in our busy world go through each day without thinking about the reason for life and the goals that are worth pursuing.

Having our purpose in view gives direction to life. We are more apt to use every minute well, since the purpose we have from God will invariably be greater than we are.

PRINCIPLES. We will follow the rules; we will live life according to God’s principles. God’s eternal principles are bigger than we are. They are unchangeable guides. When we commit to living by God’s principles, we take the first step toward building life on unshakeable foundations.

Fulfilling God’s purpose for our lives is not magic or luck. We must decide each day whether we will live our lives according to God’s principles or whether we will settle for something less. God’s principles provide permanent indicators by which we can establish direction and stability in times of difficulty and the storms of life. Principled living let us live in the light instead of in darkness.

PARTICIPATION. I will participate. As amazing as it may seem, many Christians never get in the game. These are content to sit on the sidelines, or they may even fail to show up for the game. Others who do get in the game fail to make a difference. Continuing the analogy, many who claim to be Christians fail to practice, fail to prepare, and don’t do all that well.

Daily Christianity means that we must commit to living life as a Christian. We must commit to act. Do we want our life to count for something, or are we content to simply slide through? The decision to act, to be proactive, does not mean that we can control everything that will occur, but neither are we destined to be perpetual victims. Making the decision to act is easy, following through is difficult. Many who say they want to take charge of their lives let

others determine what they do and when. Some who claim noble dreams of careers and goals fail to develop the necessary skills.

Each of these essentials requires a decision. Making these decisions will help us develop the creative forces of our lives. Nothing less will lead us forward toward a future in Christ.