

School Camp:

A time for Spiritual preparation of the heart, mind, and spirit for the school year.

It is my goal to share with you seven timeless principles from Scripture to help you live. These will assist you every day for many of life's situations. God did not leave us here without instruction. His instruction covers every phase of our lives. The Bible is the answer to every human need. So when the junk of life comes and we are without answers, instruction, and are stressed we should look to His Word.

Every moment of life fits in the category of "in all thy ways acknowledge Him." He wants you to acknowledge him. He shall direct thy paths.

Introduction:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Session One	People Problems	Making Choices	Life
Session Two	Authority Issues	Standards	Temptations
Males Only		Purity	

Session One: Godly Communication

One of life's biggest challenges is dealing with people problems. Has anyone every gossiped about you? Has any lied about you? Are you a talebearer? Do you gossip? Do you talk of others when their not around and then when they are pretend to be their best friend?

The Bible is not silent about these matters. You will find you will need skills to deal with people. It just doesn't ever change; people talk about people. However, the Word of God doesn't change. You can know how to deal with everyone you meet.

I. What does God say about my words?

²⁹Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

A. The Don'ts of my Words

1. I must not use words that will hurt, harm, or hinder.
2. I must not use words that demean, diminish, or destroy.
3. I must not use words that are carnal, corrupt, or crass.
4. What is corrupt communication?
 - a) Rotten –
 - b) Worthless –
 - c) Bad –
 - d) That which is degenerate from the original virtue.
5. Never say it. Never think it. Never write it down.
6. Always build up, lift up and help up with my words.
7. Deliver your words on platters of grace.

B. The do's of my words.

Colossians 4:6 *"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."*

Ephesians 4:31 *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:"*

Ephesians 4:32 *"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

Colossians 3:12-13 *"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."*

1. Guidelines:
 - a) Let kindness be the wrapping paper on every word we present to people.
 - b) Let grace season every word we speak.
 - c) Put away evil speaking.
2. It is always Beneficial.
 - a) Good was used to describe the fruit of the tree. Matt 7:17
 - b) Good was used to describe the woman who anointed the body of Jesus. Matt 26:10
3. It always Builds.
 - a) The word says to the use of - means in the business of.
 - b) It is Structured to build up.
 - c) It is Architected to complete a building.
 - d) Either what I say adds on or takes away from the life or lives that hear me.
4. It always Blesses.
 - a) Ministers - Gives
 - b) Grace - The divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude
 - c) What I say must be from divine influence and it is seen in my life.
5. It always goes beyond:
 - a) Christlike Communication always goes beyond the one I am directly speaking toward.
 - (1) Hearers - those who hear it the first time.
 - (2) Hearers - those who will hear it.
 - (3) Hearers - those who read it in the future.

II. What does God say about Forgiveness?

Ephesians 4:32 *“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”*

Colossians 3:12-13 *“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”*

- A. Forgiveness is the act of choosing to remember no more.
- B. Forgiveness is remembering what Christ did with me.
- C. Forgiveness is not allowing words, deeds, or offenses to cling to me.
- D. Forgiveness is commanded and constrained.
 1. Luke 17:3-4 *“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.”*
- E. Consider the prodigal son

1. His problem was not with Faithfulness but with Feelings. (The work of Christ is not the place to play the feelings game.)
 - a) He felt anger when he should have offered acceptance.
 - b) He felt bitter when he should have offered blessing.
 - c) He felt resentment when he should have offered rejoicing.
 - d) He felt rejected because he did not receive the same.
 - (1) Discontented believers:
 - (a) Pout when they should Press on.
 - (b) Protest when they should Press on.
 - (c) Pity themselves when they should press on.
 - (d) Discontentment comes when we think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think.
2. His problem was not with Faithfulness but with Forgiveness.
 - a) He would not forgive though there was a return.
 - b) He would not forgive though there was a repenting.
 - c) He would not forgive though there was a reception.
 - d) He would not forgive though there was a relationship.
 - e) He would not forgive though there was reconciliation.
 - f) He would not forgive though there was a restoration.
3. His problem was not with Faithfulness but with Fellowship.
 - a) He based his fellowship with the father on his deeds.
 - b) He based his fellowship with the father on his duty.
 - c) He based his fellowship with the father on his dedication.
 - d) He based his fellowship with the father on his determination.
 - e) The father wanted his fellowship based on his devotion.

Summary:

The Word of God is clear all you are to communicate well and always forgive when you or others don't follow the rules.

Have you wronged someone in this room? Have you been wronged?

Matt 18: the person with the knowledge of the offense goes to the other.

Session Two: Godly Submission - Understanding Authority and dealing with my issues

There are some who never have a problem with understanding authority. Yet, others will fight, struggle, and find difficulty with leadership.

Why is someone always telling me what to do? When will I get to tell someone what to do? You must understand, in life there will always be authorities over us.

Consider your authorities:

Relationship with the Creator:

God, Savior, and Holy Spirit

Relationship with People:

Parents, Pastor, Teachers, Siblings, Employers

Relationship with Government:

President, Politicians, Police, Military, Laws and Judges

You may not like all authorities in your life, but that is your problem, not theirs. You are subject!

The Word of God is not silent about this:

Romans 13:1-6

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.”

1. Every soul must be subject. (Under, subdued, obedient)
2. God established the authorities in my life: Be subject!
3. When I resist against these authorities, I am resisting God.
4. Realize the reason there are authorities in my life.
5. God chose the authorities in my life for my good and His glory.

6. Your heart is not right with God when you rebel.

7. How should the believer treat those in leadership?

Hebrews 13:17 *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”*

Hebrews 13:7 *“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”*

Philippians 2:3-5

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”

- a. Obey
- b. Pray
- c. Follow
- d. Esteem

Session Three: Godly Decisions

How to make good decisions? Daily we are faced with decisions: Some seem to be very easy others harder. We decided to get up, What to wear. Fix our hair, eat or not eat, drive or walk to church, speak to people not speak to people.

Our decisions have consequences. Life is full of making decisions. Some decisions we would rather procrastinate until it becomes a crisis. Some decisions we will put off waiting for better options. Other decisions we will let other people make for us. While even some decisions we will make, then change our mind, then make again. Some decisions we make on our own. Some we bring to a friend. Some we take to a trusted adult. Some we manage as best we can.

However, the Word of God is not silent in making decisions. While our friend's and family's advice can waver, differ, or even discourage us, the Word of God is our best resource for making decisions.

Consider Proverbs 3:1-6

“My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:1-6 KJVS)

I. The priorities of Good decision making.

- A. Know who you are
 - 1. you are a son - child of God.
 - 2. I am not a child of Dr. Phil, Oprah, or any other Pop Culture guru.
- B. Know His Word - *Keep - hold preserve and review (counting money)*
 - 1. You should be Keeper of the Book
 - 2. It should be in your heart
 - 3. It should be in your head
 - 4. It should be in your mouth.
- C. Know His Way. v3
 - 1. God's ways are mercy and truth.
 - 2. We will never make God's decisions when we make selfish choices that hurt or harm others.
 - 3. His Word should be bound to us and written upon our hearts.

II. The prizes for Good decision making.

- A. Prize: Length of days - A Good day
- B. Prize: Long Life - A good life
- C. Prize: Peace - The absence of all stress
- D. Prize: Favor with God and Man -
- E. Prize: people will understand you

III. The principles of Good decision making

- A. Trust: (hide for refuge) **Trust only one source**
 - 1. Where I Live: in God's Protection
 - 2. Leave force field - you're zapped
 - 3. this is a whole hearted matter.

- B. Lean: (support one's self) **Take only one lifeline.**
 - 1. Where I Lean: on God's Power
 - 2. Phone a friend - God
 - 3. The Word of God

- C. Acknowledge: (as a familiar friend) **Turn only to one person**
 - 1. Where I look: to God's Presence
 - 2. Friends are fine - but you won't always have them
 - 3. Parents are fine - but they are not always there
 - 4. God is always there -

Session Four: Godly Limitations

In this life there will be limits on you. Limits by the school, parents, governments, and church. While we saw earlier there are God placed limiters and the limits they implement. in our lives because of God.

Now there will come a time in your life where you will have to set your own limits. How will you do that? What will be your limits?

What does a life without limits look like? Look to Hollywood? Look to Pop Music's stars.

I want to give you ideas and thoughts to help you develop the ability to govern yourself.

Consider this, God has a standard. He would raise up his standard before the people.

Isaiah 49:22

"Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders."

How will you decide your own limits. Will it be based on your likes and dislikes? Will it be based on your friends limits? Do you know what God standards are?

God's standards are divided into three categories: What are the three categories of God's standards?

- I. **There are Precepts.** *"Things I can not do"*
 - A. A precept is a specific distinct explicit command.
 1. Ten Commandments.
 2. They are rules given in God's Word.
 - B. Ps 119.4 Commanded to keep them dilligently
 - C. Thou shalt not
 - D. When you violate a precept, it is sin.

II. **There are Principles.** *“Things I must not do”*

- A. I must not
 - 1. Would Jesus do it? 1 pet. 2.21
1 Peter 2:21 *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”*
- B. You should ask yourself these questions:
 - 1. Would it offend others?
 - 2. Will I lose my Testimony?
 - 3. Will I glorify my Father?
 - 4. Will it look evil?
- C. If you violate a principle = leads to sin.

III. **There are Preferences.** *“Things I should not do”*

- A. Comes from experience.
 - 1. It is best for my spiritual well being.
 - 2. It is best for my family and freinds.
- B. Comes from education.
 - 1. Sunday School
 - 2. Testimony of others (successes and failures)
 - 3. Preaching
- C.
- D. 2 Corinthians 6:14 *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”*

IV. **There are Policies to recall.**

- A. Remember in Christ there is Liberty for the believer.
- B. Liberty says I can do it, but it may not contribute to my worth.
- C. Liberty says I can do it, but will it make a slave?
- D. Liberty says I can do it, but, will it buld me up?
- E. Liberty says if I eat this meat offered to idols will I hurt someone?

1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23

“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.”

1 Corinthians 8:7-13

“Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol’s temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”

Romans 14:19; 15:2

“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”

Session Five: Godly Direction: Understanding God's Will for your future.

God does care about your life and what you do and where you go. While our heart may have desires to accomplish certain things and we may have pursuits we would like to chase, all this must be done with God's approval.

You might ask, if I am my own person why should it matter what God's will is for me?

1 Corinthians 6:20

"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Your life is not your own:

You are here purchased for a purpose.

You are purchased for His Glory in my spirit and body.

David Served his generation by the will of God. (Acts 13:36) What are you going to do with your generation?

1. Serve yourself with wealth.
2. Serve yourself with desires.
3. Serve yourself with dreams.
4. Serve your time to live by the will of God

The Will of God is referred to 23 times in Scripture. We speak of it in terms of a life plan. Some sense pressure about the will of God. Some fear it as if it means a life of poverty and despair. Think of God's will as a path He desires you to take to become what He wants to get the glory out of your life.

There should be no fear to find the place of absolute surrender and say to God, "What do You want to do with me?"

Romans 12:1,2 reveal God's will is found in the place of absolute surrender, submission, sacrifice and separation. Romans 12:1-3

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And 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. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

I have seen there are four things that keep people from doing the Will of God:

- Riches
- Relatinonships
- Romances
- Rebellion

How to always do the will of God?

I. Present yourself (*to Him without Reservation.*)

- A. Make yourself available without Reservation to Him. (present)
- B. Make yourself acceptable without Reservation to Him. (living and holy)
- C. Make yourself attuned without distraction to Him. (this is reasonable thing to do)

II. Eliminate the world (*Romans 1:32*)

- A. The world must not shape your thinking.
- B. The world must not shape your fashion.
- C. The world must not shape your entertainment. (what you think is amusing)
- D. The world must not shape your dreams.
- E. The world must not shape your attitude
- F. The world must not shape your responses.
- G. The world must not fit in my life.
- H. The world doesn't tell me where or how I fit.

III. Embrace the Word of God.

- A. Renew your mind with the Word of God by reading it.
- B. Renew your mind with the Word of God by applying it.
- C. Renew your mind with the Word of God by obeying it.
- D. Renew your mind with the Word of God by living it.

IV. Take the test. (*More about conditions than categories*)

- A. Prove the good - it will benefit others and the cause of Christ.
- B. Prove the acceptable: it will be in agreement with the Word of God.
- C. Prove the perfect: It will be completing to me and the work He is doing in my life.

Session Session: Guys Only

Genesis 39:5-13

“And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. And he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured. And it came to pass after these things, that his master’s wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master’s wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out,”

Beware of women who cast their eyes.

Beware of enticements and invitations for the promiscuous.

I. He Refused.

- A. I have a commitment to my Master.
- B. I have a commission from my Master.
- C. I have the confidence of my Master.

II. He Realized:

- A. My pleasure is not worth it.
 - 1. His pleasure for a moment would be against the righteousness of God.
 - 2. His pleasure for a moment would be sin against his Master.
 - 3. His pleasure for a moment would be sin against His employer’s wife.
- B. My Purity is worth more than my pleasure.
 - 1. Alone with Potiphar’s wife would mean disaster
 - 2. Alone with Potiphar’s wife would bring disappointment.
 - 3. Alone with Potiphar’s wife would result in despair.

III. **He Ran:**

- A. He ran from the temptation.
- B. He ran from the environment.
- C. He ran from what was alluring.
- D. He ran from what was tempting.
- E. He ran from what was pleasing.
- F. Better to lose a garment than your purity.

1. **Make a Promise to God with your eyes!**

Job 31:1

"I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?"

Psalms 101:3

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."

2. **What God calls sin I will find no pleasure therein.**

Romans 1:32

"Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

3. **Listen to Word of God.**

Proverbs 5:3-14

"For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them. Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger; And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me! I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly."

3. Remember these truths:

Be transparent: *Hide nothing from God, your parents, your leaders.*

Be tender: *Sins makes us calloused. Always stay tender to be close to God's touch.*

Be taken God's Word: *when the Word of God captivates my thinking it protects me and cleanses me.*

Psalms 119:9

"BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."

Be truthful with your limits. *I know I can't be alone or I can't watch this show. Or....*

Be tenacious: *Satan wants to sift me, devour me, and detour me.*

Be triumphant: *Take each victory as bringing Glory to God.*

Be Teflon: Don't let sin rest

Psalms 38:0-22

"A Psalm of David, to bring to remembrance. O LORD, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore. There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin. For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness. I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease: and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee. My heart panteth, my strength faileth me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me. My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off. They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long. But I, as a deaf man, heard not; and I was as a dumb man that openeth not his mouth. Thus I was as a man that heareth not, and in whose mouth are no reproofs. For in thee, O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God. For I said, Hear me, lest otherwise they should rejoice over me: when my foot slippeth, they magnify themselves against me. For I am ready to halt, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin. But mine enemies are lively, and they are strong: and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied. They also that render evil for good are mine adversaries; because I follow the thing that good is. Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation."

Session Six: **Godly Associations and Temptation Solutions**

The object of temptation is irrelevant.

Gossip, Girls, Boys, Food, Unhealthy Habits, Unsavory Habits, Stealing,

It is whatever draws us away from God. It can be electronic, material, or human. It is always emotional! We do what pleases us.

When it is acted upon it is offered on the altar of pride we reserve for ourselves.

“The Lord is my portion.”

Look at these crucial verses for understanding what temptation is and how it works.

James 1:12-16

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.”

The Truth about Temptation

You can endure temptation.

You can be successful in temptation.

God does not send trials to make us sin but to make us stronger.

Temptation’s formula:

It is a battle for every person: *every man*

I allow myself to be drawn from what is Godly and Good to what the flesh wants.

I allow myself to be trapped. Allure, Beguiled,

When lust is acted out then it becomes sin.

When sin rules our lives it brings death.

Temptation’s warning:

Don’t believe your can withstand it.

Don’t believe your above it.

Just don’t do it.

1 John 2:15-17

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

1. Don't love the World - Love the Word of God.
2. Don't love the World's things - Love God's things.
3. Be true in your heart - only one love exists at a time.

Temptation Guidelines:

I. Watch your gates: (*flesh, eyes, life*)

- A. What I watch.
- B. What I listen.
- C. What I speak.
- D. Verses to consider:
 - 1.

II. Watch your groups.

- A. Your friends will dictate your limits.
- B. Your friends will dictate your loves.
- C. Your friends will dictate your life's direction.
- D. Be a leader.

III. Watch your growth.

- A. Are you malnourished?
- B. Are you multiplying?
- C. Are you making a difference?

IV. Watch the Word of God.

- A. When I am in the Word of God I will know the Will of God.
- B. When I do the Will of God I will live forever.

Session Seven: **Godly Associations**

Very few things in life affect you as much as the friends you choose. Show me your friends and I will show you what you'll become. The Bible speaks of our friends.

I. My Friends should draw me closer to God; not drive me from Him.

Deuteronomy 13:6-9

“If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.”

II. My Friends should not divide me from my family, other friends, or church family.

Proverbs 16:28

“A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.”

(whisperer: slanderer, talebarer)

III. My Friends must not be worldly.

A. Worldly Friends will cost me my greatest friend.

James 4:4

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

IV. My Friends should not be gossipers.

Proverbs 17:9

“He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.”

V. My Friends will love me at all times.

Proverbs 17:17

“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

VI. Friends come from Friendliness.

Proverbs 18:24

“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”

VII. My Friends should not be with the Angry.

Proverbs 22:24

“Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:”

VIII. My Friends should tell me the truth.

Proverbs 27:6

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”

IX. My Friends should improve me.

A. Improve my outcome

Proverbs 27:9

“Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man’s friend by hearty counsel.”

B. Improve my outlook:

Proverbs 27:17

“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”

X. My friends will love me sacrificially, not selfishly.

A. John 15:13

B. *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”*