

Despite any obstacles that come our way, we must recognize that it is not the world or our circumstances that need to change; real change must begin with us. No goal is easy, whether it is climbing to the top of a mountain, landing a job, or achieving your ideal weight loss. No matter what current state or condition you are in. Only you can make real progress, and if you apply these simple principles on a daily basis, you will be surprised where you will find yourself.

TRUST GOD (ALWAYS GO TO GOD FIRST, EVEN BEFORE GOOGLE)

To get all of the answers that we need to grow and flourish always go to God *first*. Our intentions in life are probably very good; and although we think we are doing all we can to get the best results in life, life doesn't seem to be going right for us. Maybe it's time to go to the expert. All you have to do is ask, and He will give you all the answers you need to make your life abundant and fruitful.

FOLLOW GODS INSTRUCTIONS (THEY ALWAYS LEAD SOMEWHERE GOOD)

Walking by faith requires us to become like little children. Even as we grow older, we must remain as trusting children. Remember, listen to God we are His children. God is there to take care of us if we do what He tells us to do.

BE PERSISTENT (GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON YOU, SO NEITHER SHOULD YOU)

God is love, so you can be forever sure of His love. God is power, so also forever you can be sure of His protection, despite any difficulties or obstacles that come your way. God will never leave you. He is always as close to you as you want Him to be. Be consistent, untiring, with a specific goal in mind and all of the unfailing love that God has to offer—will be enough to get you through the toughest day.

KNOW WHOSE YOU ARE (AND YOU WILL KNOW WHO YOU ARE)

Knowing the truth of *whose you are* enables us to receive all of the riches, grace, and favor our eternal God is willing to lavish upon us. It is what sets us free to be blessed and be a blessing to others. God has shown us through the life of His Son that we, as His children, are entitled to be blessed beyond measure.

CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK (YOU WILL DRASTICALLY ALTER THE DIRECTION OF YOUR LIFE)

Who you think you are, is who you will become – what you think you will have, is what you will possess—how high you go, is determined by what you think—everything begins with a thought.

SPEAK POSITIVE WORDS (YOU PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS)

Every word we speak will determine where we go and who we will become. If we change our words, we can change the direction of our lives. Speaking negatively will limit any future success you might have. What makes the difference between success in life or failure? Positive Words!

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS (THE REASON YOU ARE BLESSED IS TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS)

An old saying in A.A. is “You got to give it away to keep it.” God gives liberally and so must we. Never block the blessings God has for you by being selfish and stingy. God loves a cheerful giver.

PASS ON WHAT YOU HAVE (DON'T WORRY IT WILL ALL COME BACK)

Sometimes we can be so focused on the difficulties of life and waste a lot of time and energy fretting about the future. That is why it is so important to look forward to the days ahead with anticipation and excitement about what God is going to do. There is a bright future waiting for you, so never lose heart; just continue to take the good you have been given, be appreciative then pass it on.

Joy In Life

DEVELOP FAITH MUSCLES (THE MORE YOU USE FAITH THE STRONGER YOU BECOME)

Sometimes God will ask you to press harder, do more, give more, and forgive more. He may even ask you to apologize when you are right and require you to love always, but He is always there to give you strength, encouragement, and all the power you will ever need to strengthen your faith.

IT'S UP TO YOU TO CHANGE (NO EXCUSES ACCEPTED)

We should start every morning with our eyes wide-open, looking at today as one giant all-you-can-eat buffet-style restaurant. We should select the good things that are available and leave the garbage behind. It's our choice. *I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you that I have set before you life and death, blessing and the cursing; therefore choose life that both you and your decedents may live.* (Deut. 30:19)

MAKE THE BETTER CHOICE (IT'S ALWAYS YOUR DECISION ON WHICH DIRECTION YOU WANT TO GO)

Today, make a purposeful decision that no matter what happens, you won't allow anyone or anything to take away your peace, joy, or happiness. The day is yours... have fun and don't let anybody ruin it!

STAY POSITIVE (YOU HAVE WHATEVER IT TAKES TO LIVE A PRODUCTIVE LIFE)

We live in a world that expects a lot from us, but don't get frustrated or impatient when things don't go your way or happen as quickly as you would like. Be patient and know God is never in a hurry; getting good things takes time. Nothing of any real or lasting value comes without time (it takes time for a clam to make a pearl, it takes time for a caterpillar to become a butterfly, and it takes time for a tree to make fruit), but the wait is well worth it.

I believe God is willing to help us, providing that we are willing to help Him, help us! And that is the key; everything God does requires us to make the first move, the faith move, or nothing will ever change.

It's like that with everything, it's our job to keep things clean, and it's our job to organize our time, it's our job to keep priorities straight and if something needs to be done... we need to do it.

We have not just been created to depend on other people for everything, many things we must do for ourselves. It's like asking people to pray for us when it's just as easy and a whole lot faster to go directly to God and ask for answers to our needs and concerns. If you have a problem, start somewhere, no matter how small and then TRUST GOD, to give you all the strength and power you need to get the job done.

God will not give us any excuse not to do our part. Remember we work in partnership with Him... that's just the way it is. Now we can continue to be stubborn about this whole thing or we can take the first step, which is to step out in faith and do our part.

Everything that happens in our life God uses for our good. When we get upset and discouraged, God uses it to test our strength and to increase our determination to keep going. Difficult times are not meant to arrest your spiritual progress, but to help it grow. Never give up; see each and every test as an opportunity to depend on God. He is always there to help and always ready with an answer to your problem.

God's strength is always there waiting for you to use. Nothing will impede your progress if you see all things as coming from God. You can overcome, you can conquer, and you will never fail when you follow God's leading. *"My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me"* (Ps. 31:15).