

## The Five “T’s” of the Christian Life

**Text: Psalm 127:1**

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

**Intro:** This simple Psalm is very profound. Written as one of the song of the ascents that were sung as the worshippers went up to the temple to offer sacrifices, this scripture tells us simply that unless the Lord is the center of everything that we do then we have no guarantee of success in the Christian Life. Let's take a few moments to discover what I call the 5T's of the Christian life.

### 1. Trials

- a. You may have heard it said, “There is no crown without a cross.” Trials can be described as “the challenges that we encounter in life that can either make us bitter or better.” We could break these down into two more T's.
  - i. Temptations – the opportunity offered by Satan to do the wrong thing and,
  - ii. Tests – the opportunity provided by God to do the right thing. James provides a wonderful description (**James 1:12-18; James 1:2-8**)
- b. Jesus demonstrated during His testing in the Wilderness that the key to overcoming is to know what God has already said and be able to recall it.

### 2. Trust

- a. The Scripture teaches us that without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Pastor Sonny preached on this recently. You have probably heard him use the illustration of high wire trapeze artists who can only be successful when one lets go and allows the other to catch him. The Scriptures describe it like this (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)

### 3. Talk

- a. Proverbs 18:21 says “Life and death are in the power of the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruit.” Additionally, Moses
- b. Some of Moses’ final instructions to the Israelites are recorded in Deuteronomy. One such statement is found in Deuteronomy 30:11-19.
- c. James also addresses the power of words (**James 3:5-10**).

### 4. Thanks

- a. There’s a story recorded in Luke 17:11-19 about Jesus’ healing ten lepers. Lepers were the ultimate outcasts not only because their disease was incurable and highly contagious, but added to that was the belief that leprosy was a sign that your sin had incurred the judgment of God. On top of that, if you were a Samaritan, it was three strikes against you. Yet, of the nine that were healed, only one returned to thank Jesus and he was, you guessed it, a Samaritan!
- b. I find Jesus’ response telling, “Were there not ten cleansed, where are the other nine?” My take on this is that God expects us to be thankful, especially when God has done something so spectacular. I don’t think it stems from God craving our praise. I think He wants our thankfulness so that we are never deceived into thinking that we got here all on our own. Jesus called the Samaritan a foreigner,

- not as a slight, but as an indictment against those who thought they were due special privileges. May we never forget that without Him we are nothing.
- c. The Apostle Paul offers the proper approach,

### **Philippians 4:6-7 English Standard Version**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- d. He further amplifies this in **1 Thessalonian 5:18**,

“In everything, give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

### **5. Triumph**

- a. This old adage frequently plays in my thoughts, “Yard by yard, life is hard, inch by inch, life’s a cinch. The key to winning is not coming in first, but winning.
- b. The Bible uses many analogies to describe the Christian Life and in the days before baseball, it was participating in a race. These Scriptures that describe the outcome (**Hebrews 12:1-3; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 2 Corinthians 2:12-16 Romans 8:31-39**)

**Epilogue:** The Gospels record Jesus’ Temptation in the Wilderness Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Each records an interesting outcome,

### **Matthew 4:11 English Standard Version**

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

### **Mark 1:14-15 English Standard Version**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Luke 4:13 English Standard Version

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**The Takeaway:** When ones endures and overcomes the efforts of the enemy to kill, steal and destroy, he/she can be assured that.

1. God will minister to you in powerful ways.
2. He may launch you into a new ministry and
3. Satan will be after you again.
4. But rest assured, you will be wiser and stronger and able to walk in even greater levels of victory!

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