

5 Do Not's for every believer

Psalm 92

12

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;

13

planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.

14

They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,

15

proclaiming, "The Lord is upright;
he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

1. Do not forget who made you

Genesis 1:26-27

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness....,

2:7

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

- You are different from all of God's Creation...
- You were created in the image of God... And in the likeness of God...

Psalm 92:12

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,

If you watch the News during a hurricane you will notice the Palm Trees in the background...

The Palm Tree:

The Palm tree is unique from other trees. Palm trees are monocots as opposed to other trees, such as oaks that are dicots. If you took a cross section of a palm tree, you would find a number of brownish spots instead of the growth rings like you'd find in most trees. The Palm Tree has bundles of vascular strands that carry nutrients up and down the tree. It's like a thick steel cable woven from a lot of smaller steel wires.

These strands each connect to a root and these fibrous roots not only fan out to great distances but also go down deep. These strands in the trunk of the tree that go down into the soil is what give the Palm a solid foundation as well as the ability to bend under high wind conditions.

“Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape.”

The winds of a hurricane will brake powerful branches of an oak tree like match sticks but not a palm tree.

Palm trees are made to bend...

The Bible says , “The righteous will flourish like a palm tree”

The Palm Tree is Resilient...

The Palm Tree is Rooted and grounded...

The Palm Tree is made to withstand the storm...

Do not forget who made you

God created you with the storms of life in mind...

He made you weather proof...

You are God's child he loves you and cares about you...

He made you to grow past the storm and even in the midst of the storm...

The storm may drive you to your knees, but it's on your knees that your roots grow deeper and wider than ever before.

God has created you with storms in mind

God has given you bounce back ability; like a rubber ball

Proverbs 24:16

for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again,
but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.

2. Do not forsake the place of prayer

Psalm 92

12

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;

Psalm 141:2

May my prayer be set before you like incense;
may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

When you pray it is a sweet incense to God...

Have you ever been in a Cedar Closet:
It has a wonderful natural smell...
It has a beautiful appearance...
What smells good to us smells bad to bugs...
Cedar naturally fends off pestilence...

If you want to keep the bugs out of your life, stir up your prayer life...
Do not forsake the place of prayer

Luke 5:16

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

- having an established time or place of prayer will help you fight back against the attacks of the enemy.
- Your place in prayer may be a trail.
- It may be a walking path
- It may be a room in your home
- You don't have to go to God with a big agenda...
- Praise God you can spend time with God like you do with a good friend...
-

- You ever notice how you act around close friends...
- It doesn't matter how you dress... They don't care...
- It doesn't matter what your eating... You don't have to impress...
- It doesn't even matter if you don't have a lot to say... You can just be...
- just be with God...

Do not forsake the place of prayer

Often times I will just go to my place of prayer, wait on God and he always shows up.

If you're ever in a spiritual battle... **Do not forsake the place of Prayer**

3. Do not forsake the place of power

Psalm 92

13

planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.

The Devil is always working to get you out of a place of power and into a weak and vulnerable position.

When you get into a spiritual battle, the enemy will first attack you to keep you from going to the place of worship, the Church.

The Church is a place of power.

Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **25** not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

NLT

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Breaking News Alert: If you haven't already figured this out -

- When you are planning on going to Church, the devil starts giving you all kinds of reasons why you should stay home or do this or that. Has that ever struck you as strange?
- News Alert - When Moses was born the devil tried to stop him...
- When Jesus was born the devil was there to stop him...
- When God is about to do something critical in your life, The devil is going to try to stop that too...
- That is precisely the time you must get up, put on your shoes and get out that door and get to church.

Solomon says in **Ecclesiastes 4:9,10**

Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:

If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.

When your going through an attack you need friends who will lift you up and help you up when you fall.

Don't let satan uproot you or discourage you from the place of power...
Do not forsake the place of power

4. Do not pull away from Spiritual Covering

Psalm 23

1

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

2

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

3

he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

4

Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

The Shepherd's staff has a hook on one end to catch sheep and gather them to himself...

One end Gathers and the other end protects from the enemy...

The Lord is Great Shepherd and along with that He has placed others in our lives as Under Shepherds

Hebrews 13:17 NLT

Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

The Lord not only Shepherds you, but he also Shepherds those he has called to Shepherd his Sheep...

I have learned to love and trust those God has placed over my life and this is a safe guard from the enemy...

I have found that when I submit to their request God blesses it and I understand better later why they had me do what they did...

Allow those who are placed by God over you to help you...
They are placed there by God to tend to us like a Shepherd tends sheep.

Every believer needs to know **Do Not pull away from Spiritual Covering**

5. Do not give up

Psalm 92

14

They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,

15

proclaiming, "The Lord is upright;
he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

When Jesus was on the Cross he did not abandon the Mission...
He didn't pay half the price needed for our Salvation...
he said "It is Finished"...

It is found in **John 19:28-30**

28 Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. 30 When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Jesus could have called it quits early
There were legions of Angels at his disposal
He could have called on them at any moment but he didn't
He went all the way to the Cross
He took a beating like we can't imagine
He was mocked and never defended Himself
He was stripped naked and humiliated in front of everyone

He was nailed to that cross and just before he died he said...
It is Finished...

Jesus Did not Give Up...

2 Timothy 4

6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. 7 I have **fought the good fight**, I have **finished the race**, I have **kept the faith**. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—**and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing**.

- There is something in store for those who Do Not Give Up...
- There is a Reward...
- There is something Amazing to look forward to...

But not everyone makes it...

There are people in the Bible who Shipwrecked their faith...

1 Timothy 1

18 Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, 19 holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. 20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

I don't know about you but I'm not interested in the taking on Satan as a Tutor...

Hymenaeus and Alexander rejected good conscience and shipwrecked their faith...

They started out good, but quit half way...

Nothing good comes from only going half way...

There is no reward in a half built house...

There is no enjoyment from a half baked Cake...

There is nothing you can do with a half cooked Egg...

The enemy would love to ruin the picture of what God has for you by convincing you to give up...

But I'm here to tell you **today**

Do not forget who made you

Do not forsake the place of prayer

Do not forsake the place of power

Do not pull away from Spiritual Covering

Do Not Give Up...