

### #5: Trust that You Know Everything and Have Nothing to Learn from Others

- Quote: Anonymous 80-something, *Thirty Lessons for Living* – “No matter who you meet, no matter where you meet them, always presume that they’re much better than you are. Presume that they’re head and shoulders above you, and you’ll have no problem.”
- Excerpt: Article “The Astoundingly Impressive \$400 Million Shaquille O’Neal Empire – How Shaq Makes More Money Retired Than He Did As A Player” - “Shaquille O’Neal spent the first \$1 million he made from the NBA within 30 minutes of receiving the check. You read that right. Shaquille O’Neal spent one million dollars in 30 minutes. He hadn’t even played in a professional basketball game yet. Shaq may be a living basketball legend today, but once upon a time he was a 21 year old newly drafted NBA player fresh out of LSU who blew through money like it was going out of style. He very easily could have gone the way of so many other bankrupt and in debt athletes who, showered with money and fame at an early age, blow their wealth rather than build upon it.
  - “Fortunately for Shaq, two things happened next: #1) His banker immediately called him up in a rage, warning Shaq that he would end up like so many other athletes – FLAT BROKE – if he didn’t get his life under control. #2) Shaq listened.”
- Acts 17:11 – Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.
  - Compare this to the Pharisees, when Peter and the disciples preached: “When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death” (Acts 5:33)
  - Or in Athens, where they “sneered” at Paul (Acts 17:32)
  - Or in Ephesus, where they rioted (Acts 19)

### #6: Ditch the Church

- Church Attendance (Gallup Polls)
  - 1960 - 70% of US population went to church every week
  - 2025 – 20%
- Lifeway Research (Sep 2025)
  - 63% of American adults say their personal or family worship is a good substitute for church attendance
  - Only 33% say every Christian has an obligation to join a local church
- American Bible Society Survey (Aug 14, 2025)
  - 64% of Americans call themselves Christians...
  - Yet only 55% of these attended church even once in the last 6 months
- Psalm 68:6 – God sets the lonely in families
  - ESV = God settles the solitary in a home
- Proverbs 15:22 – Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.
- Proverbs 11:14 – ...victory is won through many advisers.
- Hebrews 10:24-25 – 24 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.

### #7: Resist the Holy Spirit

- Lifeway Research Survey (Sep 2025): 60% of American Evangelicals don’t even believe the Holy Spirit is an actual personal being but just a force
- Acts 7:51 – You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:19 – Do not quench the Spirit.

- “quench” = lit. “to extinguish”... every other place in the Bible this word is used, it means putting out a fire
- Two Big Things:
  - 1) Be filled with the Holy Spirit
  - 2) Be led by the Holy Spirit
- 1) Be Filled with the Holy Spirit
  - Jesus promised that those who believe in Him would be so full of the Holy Spirit that it would be as if rivers of living water would flow out of him (John 7:37-39)
  - Later, he promised that we’d receive power when we’re filled (Acts 1:8)
  - We see this happening to the early church, first in Acts 2 when the Spirit fell on the 120 gathered in the Upper Room... and then again throughout the book of Acts
  - Peter promised that this infilling by the Holy Spirit is “for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” (Acts 2:39)
  - *Normal Christian Birth* (British Theologian David Pawson)
    - The normal route that someone takes to enter into the Kingdom of God has 4 parts: salvation by faith, repentance of sin and of dead works, baptism in water, and baptism (filling) by the Holy Spirit
  - Ephesians 5:18-21 – 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
  - In Romans 5:5, Paul says that God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit
- 2) Be Led by the Holy Spirit
  - Romans 8:12-14 – 12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
  - Galatians 5:16-25 – 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
    - If you are led by the Law... you do what is right not because you want to but because that’s what’s required, what’s expected... it provokes your flesh to react in sin
    - If you are led by your Flesh... you do what makes you feel good... which also leads to sin because you’re still in charge of your own life
    - If you are led by the Spirit... you are not under the power of the Law or of your Flesh... you follow Jesus and do what’s right because you want to