

HOME RUN

Learn God's Game Plan for Life and Leadership
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Are you living the life that you want? A life to the full as Jesus described in John 10:10?

Too often believers' lives don't look much different from those of people who don't follow God. Most believers want their lives to matter, to make a difference, to have meaning, to count. They dream of having a good life, a full life. God wants us to have more. By that, I don't mean more material things. I mean more on a deeper level: more significance, more good relationships, more soul satisfaction, more impact, more connection with God. This the full life that Jesus was talking about in John 10:10.

I believe God has more for us than most of us realize. He wants us to live a life that matters which the author calls a Home Run Life! There are four things we need to know...

1. God loves us MORE than we will ever know.
2. There is MORE to God.
3. God has put MORE in us.
4. God has MORE for us.

The reason Christians are not living the full life is because they are missing some foundational principles and practices of the faith. God wants to change us from the inside out. There is a pattern for living that God uses to help His people do life well—live a home run life.

Getting a home run requires growing in key areas. What if having a fulfilling life was really based on a pattern that God has given us many years ago in His Word? Would you seek it out and apply it to your life? Most people are trying their best at life and often feel empty, disappointed, and falling short of reaching their dreams.

Romans 12:1-2 and the story of Joseph offer a pattern for having the fulfilling life that Jesus promised.

HOW GOD GROWS US UP

God gives the big picture of how He grows us up through a knowable, specific, consistent pattern that we can follow to remake us into God's image. The seed of this is in Romans 12:1-2.

Romans 12:1-2 (KJV)

- 1 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.
- 2 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.

RUN THE BASES

The pattern includes four areas of growth that are required:

1. Winning Dependence: Learning to depend upon God for everything
2. Winning Within: Developing a godly character
3. Winning With People: Loving, valuing, and serving others
4. Winning Results: Using God-given gifts and talents for His glory.

These growth areas are repeated in the development of many of the major Bible characters. David, Daniel, Peter, and Paul are a small sample of those who had to grow in these areas to become the giants of the faith that they were.

Incidentally, the four areas of growth also fit the bases in baseball:

- Home plate: Winning Dependence
- First base: Winning Within
- Second base: Winning With People
- Third base: Winning Results

The rules of baseball are the same from sandlot ball to Little League to the World Series:

- There are always four bases.
- You score only when you cross home plate.
- You must touch first, second, and third bases before crossing home plate.
- You must run the bases in order.
- If you miss a base, you're out.

These rules also apply to the four vital growth areas as well. God's plan for a fulfilling life for us requires that we run the bases. We must understand our relationship with God, ourselves, others, and work in order to have a proper definition of a home run life.