



# Holy Habits

## Holy Habits

### Part 1

April 7, 2024

The Book of Proverbs 3:1-12, “My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, <sup>2</sup>for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. <sup>3</sup>Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup>So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. <sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. <sup>7</sup>Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. <sup>8</sup>It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. <sup>9</sup>Honor the Lord with your wealth and with

the firstfruits of all your produce; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. <sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, <sup>12</sup> for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word, In Jesus Name! Amen!

The Embrace of the Word of God, both its teachings and its commandments, generate many things in our lives: length of days, years of life, peace in your life. The Principles of the Scripture are a blessing to those who are willing to receive its correction and a burden to those who desire rebellion over submission to the Word of God.

In verse 4, Solomon gives us insight into what happens when embrace the teachings and the commandments of the Word as well as the benefit of maintaining our course in steadfast love and faithfulness to God and to the fellowship; these are Holy Habits that have a lasting impact upon our lives as well as those who are around us.

Note the impact of such a life found in verse 4, “**So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.**” When we choose to live our lives according to the principles of the Scripture, by practicing holy habits, not only will we find favor and good success in the sight of God but also with man; with those who are around us.

This principle of Holy Habits and living out the Word is found in the life of Christ Himself when verse 4 is made manifest for us to see in the His life. The Gospel of Saint Luke 2:52 records, **“<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”**

Holy Habits manifest when we make personal practice of the teachings of Scripture and apply them to everyday life. When we choose to Live the Word and not just Read the Word.

Thus the first Holy Habit that I would like for us to dive into together is recorded in verses 5 & 6 of this Proverbs 3, **“<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”**

**1) When Holy Habits begin to develop in our lives, we will begin to trust in the Lord more and lean less upon our own understanding!**

a) Isaiah 55:6-9, **“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

**<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the**

earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

- b) One truth that we all must embrace is that none of us have the position to see the overall big picture! And just as His thoughts are not our and his ways are not our own, we must rest in His track record not only in own individual lives, but also in the life of the Church as well as the Scripture all the way back to Genesis chapter one.
- c) Friends the bottom line is this: God never lies. God never changes. God knows all things. So we can trust him above all else which includes when we do not understand or make the mistake of leaning on our own understanding.
- d) When the bible says “do not lean on your own understanding” the Bible is being serious and the Lord means exactly. Even myself as a Pastor, I have had to resolve myself to not lean to my own understanding and trust the Lord even when things do not make sense. May we all today collectively choose to do the best we can with what we’ve got where we are at and trust the Lord with the outcome! This is a hard by Holy Habit that we must all develop! Trust the Lord!

e) Remember that when we begin to build holy habits, we will learn to trust the Lord more and lean less upon ourselves!

2) When Holy Habits begin to develop in our lives, we will begin to acknowledge Him and His will above our Preferences and Feelings!

a) We live in a generation that constantly lives in their feelings! Everyone is so offended to the point that I am convinced that there are people who wake up looking for something to be offended about. With this emphasis on feelings, there is this token phrase that I have heard more times than I can count; and oddly, it seems to always be tethered to a bad idea or used as an excuse to rebel against God and His Word and it's this... "I am going to follow my heart!" "In my heart, I feel that this is what I am supposed to do" "You should just follow your heart" "Follow your feelings and tell your own truth"

b) The Book of Jeremiah 17:9-10, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"<sup>10</sup> "I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

c) Here are a few nuggets to hang on to:

i) Your heart is deceitful

ii) Your emotions fluctuate

iii) Your mind is truly never made up

d) The Book of Proverbs 4:23 states, "Above all else, guard your heart,

for everything you do flows from it." Friends, we must guard our

hearts and we do so by what we let influence us; this includes family,

friends, music, influencers, social media, and even your job. You

must guard your heart above all else because from it flows

everything that you do. (Speech Patterns = State of the Heart)

e) Remember that when we begin to build holy habits, we will be less

driven by our feelings and emotions and more balanced to stand

upon the Principles of Scripture and not the vanity of our hearts!

3) When Holy Habits begin to develop in our lives, we will begin to understand that often the paths of life are not straight because we got off the path!

a) The Book of Galatians 6:7-10, "7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

<sup>9</sup>And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

b) Say this with me, “whatever one sows, that will he also reap”.

Friends, I believe that there has been a fallacy that has been the byproduct of poor biblical teaching in regards to this passage of text.

c) Church, just because you confess and repent does not mean that the seeds you’ve sown are prohibited from bringing a harvest into your life for what you have sown. Hear me well today! Repentance and forgiveness do not eliminate the fruit of our actions; you will have to eat the fruit of your decisions.

d) Why? Because whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap. If we sow destruction and sin then we shall reap what we sow! If we sow righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost then we shall reap what we sow! And today it is time to get back on the straight path.

e) Remember that when we begin to develop Holy Habits in our lives, we will begin to understand that often the paths of life are not straight because we got off the path!

f) But today, we are going to break the cycle!

(Altar Time)