



Holy Habits
Part 2
April 14, 2024

The Book of Proverbs 3:1-12, “My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, ²for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. ³Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. ⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. ⁷Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. ⁸It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. ⁹Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled with

plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. ¹¹ My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, ¹² 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!

Last Sunday I shared the following and I believe that it is pertinent to do the same today. Friends, the Embrace of the Word of God, both its teachings and its commandments, has the power to manifest the Blessing of the Lord in our Lives!

Holy Habits manifest when we make personal practice of the teachings of Scripture and strive to apply them to everyday life. The heart behind me teaching in this series is to focus us all on what we should be doing for Christ as we walk out our faith on a daily basis.

Thus the second Holy Habit that I would like for us to dive into together is recorded in verses 5 & 6 of this Proverbs 3, ⁷ "Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones." Therefore point #1...

1) When Holy Habits begin to Develop in our Lives, We will Choose to Grow in Wisdom and not Claim to have Mastered It!

- a) 1 Corinthians 3:18-20, “¹⁸Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,”²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”
- b) I believe one of the greatest failures of our faith journey is when we make the mistake of thinking that we have “arrived” at some elitist state of being where we are above ever being helped or we have achieved some heightened state of existence where we are wise beyond all others. This is a very dangerous place to be.
- c) The first half of verse 7 of our primary text for today makes it clear that we should never have the posture of being wise in our own eyes. A truly wise person realizes that even if one is wise, one still has a ways to go.
- d) Years ago, I heard a sermon by Leonard Ravenhill and he said the following quote and it stuck with me, “the more and longer that I live, the more I find out that I don’t know!”
- e) True Wisdom says you are still inept and not complete; pride says you are complete and have no need for anyone.

- f) My father has said to me many times in my life the following quote,
“If you live long enough, you will live long enough to get some sense. But when you get enough sense to be wise, it’s time to die.”
- g) Church family, the greatest resource of wisdom is from God and not this world... ¹⁸“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.”¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God.”
- h) We must remember today that when Holy Habits begin to develop in our lives, we choose to grow in wisdom and not claim to have mastered it! Point #2...

2) When Holy Habits begin to Develop in our Lives, We will See the Value of having a Reverence for God and not a Fear of Man!

- a) The Gospel of Saint Luke 12:4-5, ⁴“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!”
- b) Perhaps the source of problems that we see both within the confines of society and within the confines of the church or religion is the fact that we have no fear of God.

- c) I recently listened to a sermon from John Bevere during which he discussed about how he had been invited to visit a well-known television minister who had been sentenced to jail due to legal charges.
- d) He goes to visit this minister by his personal request and while there, they begin to converse. Bevere asks this well-known minister, “why did you fall out of love with Jesus?” to which the imprisoned minister responded with, “I never stopped loving Jesus; I had no fear of God. And there are millions of American Christians that are just like me, they love Jesus but they don’t fear God!”
- e) And I fear that we have lost our fear of God because we have allowed our society and every other avenue of influence around us and even in us to allow our view of God to shift thus our fear of God has waned. And with this waning of the fear of God, we shift our fear from God and begin to fear man! And Jesus warned us against that!
- f) Jesus tell us clearly that we should fear God and not man! **“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!”**

g) And perhaps that's why the writer of Proverbs stated to be not wise in your own eyes but fear God! When we lean to our own understanding, we forfeit the wisdom of God for our own wisdom and, as such, become wise in our own eyes and lose our fear of God.

h) Church Family, may we never lose our fear of God. May we never become so good at doing church and playing the part of being a Christian that we lose sight of the one whom we minister to and for.

i) We must remember today that when Holy Habits begin to develop in our lives, we will see the Value of having a healthy respect and fear of God. And point #3...

3) When Holy Habits begin to Develop in our Lives, We will Desire to Turn from Evil rather than Entertain the Idea of It!

a) Psalm 34:11-16, ¹¹“Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. ¹²What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? ¹³Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. ¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. ¹⁶The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.”

- b) It is the age old dichotomy within the heart of every person to choose good or evil; spanning its historical impact from Genesis chapter 3 unto this very day.
- c) Perhaps we should consider that the history of man records a story of that easily allows us to see the impact of decisions made that were evil versus the impact of decisions made that were good.
- d) This battle of Good versus Evil is as old as time itself and stands immemorial which leaves us all with a choice to make. Choose you this day whom you shall serve; turn away from evil and do good! It is time to get off the fence and make your decision!
- e) Why? Because when Holy Habits begin to develop in our lives, we will turn from evil rather than entertain it!
- f) And if we choose to be not wise in our own eyes, fear God, and turn away from evil, the Bible says, **“It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.”**
- g) It’s time to choose Jesus! Christ is King!

Altar Call - Pray the Blessing

Transition to Closer