

THE TALE OF TWO KINGS

“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart”

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:6-7 NIV)

Steps to living a victorious Christian life:

1. Having a *right heart*.

You can't be successful in living the Christian life without having a heart that is turned to God, and longs to *please* Him.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
(Psalm 139:23-24 NIV)*

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Psalm 51:10-12 NIV)

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. (Psalm 63:1 NIV)

How do you *fall in love* with God? How do you deepen your *passion* for Him?

David gives us *insight* from Psalm 119:

1. *Call out* to God

I call with all my heart; answer me, O LORD, and I will obey your decrees. 146 I call out to you; save me and I will keep your statutes. 147 I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word. (Psalm 119:145-147 NIV)

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (James 4:7-10 NIV)

2. Read God's Word

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. (Psalm 119:18 NIV)

3. Meditate on God's Word

My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises. (Psalm 119:148 NIV)

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11 NIV)

4. Develop friendships that will encourage your love for God. Decrease those friendships that will discourage your love for God.

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17 NIV)

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work:
10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls
and has no one to help him up! 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend
themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NIV)*

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." (1 Corinthians 15:33-34 NIV)

5. Align your talents, gifts, abilities and resources to serve God.