

Maroubra Baptist Church

14 September 2014

WHAT TO DO...

Part 1. When You Are Falsely Accused

BIBLE READING Genesis 39:1-20 p114

THE QUESTION IS, HOW WILL WE RESPOND TO IT?

For it brings favor if, mindful of God's will, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly.²⁰ For what credit is there if you sin and are punished, and you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God. 1 Peter 2:19-20

THREE PRINCIPLES TO ADOPT

1. MISTAKES AND ACCUSATIONS ARE INEVITABLE

Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Tim. 3:12

- **Build your testimony before the accusation rather than try to defend it after**

Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, And I have trusted in the LORD without wavering." Psalm 26:1

Do this (respond) with gentleness and respect, keeping your conscience clear, so that when you are accused, those who denounce your Christian life will be put to shame. 1 Peter 3:16

2. SUFFER FOR THE RIGHT REASONS

It is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:17

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:10

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Matthew 5:11

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:12

Those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4:19

- **God never wastes a hurt**

3. GOD'S PLANS ARE NEVER THWARTED BY PEOPLE.

But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. The chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it. Genesis 39:21-22

- **God can use anything for his purposes**

You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people. Genesis 50:20

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose. Rom 8:28

The greatest good that ever came out of a false accusation was on the cross of Calvary

Maroubra Baptist Church

21 September 2014

WHAT TO DO...

Part 2. When You Feel Like A Failure

BIBLE READING: Matthew 26:69-75 p1389

GREAT THINGS ABOUT PETER

1. GREAT POTENTIAL

Peter was the LEADER of the Disciples

Peter was SPOKESMAN for the group

Peter was a member of CHRIST'S INNER CIRCLE of three

2. GREAT INSIGHT

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."⁶⁹ We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:68-69

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:16

3. GREAT FUTURE

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matthew 16:18

4. GREAT COMMITMENT

Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." Matthew 26:33

But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." Matthew 26:35

5. GREAT FAILURE, GREAT DENIAL

He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about." Mark 14:71

6. GREAT FORGIVENESS

Luke's Account

But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.⁶¹ Then the Lord turned and looked at Peter. So Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times."⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly. Luke 22:54-62

But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Mark 16:7

He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 1 Corinthians 15:5

7. GREAT REINSTATEMENT

*He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."
Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. John 21:18*

8. GREAT RECOVERY

¹⁴*Then Peter raised his voice and addressed the crowd. Acts 2:14*

³⁸*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Acts 2:38*

THREE RESPONSES TO FAILURE

1. FOCUS ON THE BIG PICTURE

Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers Luke 22:31-32

*So be truly glad!...These trials are only to test your faith, to see whether or not it is strong and pure; So if your faith remains strong after being tried in the test tube of fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day of His return. 1Peter 1:6-7
LB*

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. 1 Peter 5:10

2. DEVELOP A TEACHABLE HEART

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. 1Peter 5:6-7

3. BE GRATEFUL FOR GOD'S GRACE

And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Tend My sheep. (John 21:17)

But while we were still failures (sinners), Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Maroubra Baptist Church

28 September 2014

WHAT TO DO...

Part 3. When You're Running On Empty

WHEN RUNNING ON EMPTY...

1. We become poor witnesses for Christ

2. We become easy prey for the enemy

Physical training is of some value (has a limited benefit), but godliness (spiritual training) is useful and of value in everything and in every way, for it holds promise for the present life and also for the life which is to come. 1 Timothy 4:8 AMP

How Do I Fill Up?

THREE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

1. Learn The Discipline Of Waiting

Those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 NKJV

The LORD values (favours) those who fear Him, those who put their hope in His faithful love. (Those who wait for His loving-kindness NASB) Psalm 147:11

2. Take Time To Fine Tune Your Sensors

But your eyes are blessed because they do see, and your ears because they do hear! ¹⁷ For I assure you: Many prophets and righteous people longed to see the things you see yet didn't see them; to hear the things you hear yet didn't hear them. Matthew 13:16-17

Develop Listening Ears

Apply your mind to instruction and correction and attune your ears to words of knowledge. Proverbs 23:12 AMP

Develop Seeking Eyes

Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word (Psalm 119:37 NIV)

Seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. Colossians 3:1-2

Let your eyes look directly ahead And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. ²⁶ Watch the path of your feet And all your ways will be established. Proverbs 4:25-26 NASB

3. Remember Your Identity

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me (apart from Me) you can do nothing. John 15:5 NKJV

Stay Connected

Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope by grace. ² Thessalonians 2:16

Maroubra Baptist Church

5 October 2014

WHAT TO DO...

Part 4. When You Hit The Crossroads Of Life

This is what the Lord says: Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16

- Stand at the crossroads and look
- Ask for the ancient paths
- Ask where the good way is
- Walk in it
- And you will find rest for your souls

How do we make sure that we don't take the wrong road?

THREE STEPS TO TAKE

STEP 1. TRUST THAT GOD WILL GUIDE

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Three conditions

(1) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and (2) lean not on your own understanding; (3) in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

- (1) Trust in the LORD... with all your heart
- (2) lean not... on your own understanding
- (3) Acknowledge him... in all your ways

STEP 2. LINE UP THE FOUR GUIDEPOSTS

(1) GOD'S WORD

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

(a) God's word lets us know what God doesn't like.

(b) God's word lets us know what God does like.

(c) God's word lets us know God's character...what he wants from his people.

(d) God's word challenges us.

(2) CIRCUMSTANCES

(a) A Great Opportunity

(b) A Major Obstacle

(3) INNER CONVICTIONS

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16

The Spirit of truth... will guide you into all truth. John 16:13

(4) ADVICE FROM GODLY FRIENDS.

3. STEP OUT IN FAITH (CONFIDENTLY)

(1) Make a DECISION

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.
James 1:5*

(2) Chose the BEST OPTION

Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

(3) Invite God to BLOCK IT

*The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.
Proverbs 16:9*

Maroubra Baptist Church

12 October 2014

WHAT TO DO...

Part 5. When You're Depressed

BIBLE READING: Psalm 40:1-5 p553

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in the miry depths where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep water; the floods engulf me. I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God. Psalm 69:1-3 p555 NIV

DEPRESSION IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

I can't carry all these people by myself. They are too much for me. ¹⁵ If You are going to treat me like this, please kill me right now. Numbers 11:14-15

Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. ¹² For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel. Deuteronomy 34:10, 12
Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. ⁴ He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life." 1 Kings 19:3-4

POSSIBLE CAUSES

- **Great Loss**
- **Unresolved Issues**
- **Chemical Imbalance**
- **Prolonged Fatigue**

THE GOOD NEWS - THERE IS HOPE

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in the miry depths where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep water; the floods engulf me. I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God. Psalm 69:1-3 p555 NIV

I waited patiently for the Lord; He heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire. Psalm 40:1-2

THREE PRINCIPLES TO APPLY

1. CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus. 2 Corinthians 7:6

Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy

- He wants to STEAL our HOPE
- He wants to KILL our POTENTIAL
- He wants to DESTROY US.

But there is a source of hope

Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him. Ps 43:5

2. THINK BACK TO YOUR ORIGINAL CALL

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Isaiah 51:1

The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome." Acts 23:11

Be willing and ready to start there all over again

The righteous man falls seven times but rises again. Prov 24:16

For by these He's given His great and magnificent promises that by them you'll be partakers of His divine nature. 2 Peter 1:4

Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses. 1 Kings 8:56

3. SEEK GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart Jeremiah 29:13

Learn to live by promises, not by explanations

I prayed three times for the Lord to take it away, and He didn't. 2 Corinthians 12:8

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. Job 23:10

I will be with you when you pass through the waters, and when you pass through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. You will not be scorched when you walk through the fire, and the flame will not burn you. Isaiah 43:2

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity. God is faithful, and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape so that you are able to bear it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

In all these things we are more than victorious through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. Psalm 91:7

Maroubra Baptist Church

19 October 2014

WHAT TO DO...

Part 6. When Your Dreams Get Shattered

BIBLE READING: Genesis 40:1-23, 41:1

For the dream comes through much effort. Ecclesiastes 5:3

Most of God's best people had their dreams dashed at some time

- Job
- Abraham and Sarah
- David
- Moses
- Jeremiah
- Joseph

THREE POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. WE ALL HAVE DREAMS AND AMBITIONS

In every child of God's heart is a God-given dream

Know the difference between a wish and a God-given dream

A wish is negotiable

A God-given dream is our life assignment

What will God hold me accountable for on assessment day?

Both will be tested

One night Joseph had a dream and promptly reported the details to his brothers causing them to hate him even more. Genesis 37:5

God may ask us to die to our dream... as a test

Cast your bread on the surface of the waters for you will find it after many days. Ecclesiastes 11:1

I must be faithful for THE PROCESS

Trust GOD to be faithful for THE PROMISE

SCRUB THE MOTIVES OF YOUR HEART

We ask and we don't receive because we ask with wrong motives. James 4:3

2. STAY FAITHFUL IN ADVERSITY

The LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. Genesis 39:21

Failure is only what you define as such

DON'T TAKE MATTERS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS

Sarai said to Abram, Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid. And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. Genesis 16:2

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PROMISER... not the promise

He is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of. Ephesians 3:20

3. BE PATIENT WITH DELAYS

Pharaoh's wine taster, however, promptly forgot all about Joseph, never giving him a thought. One night two years later Genesis 40:23-41:1

Staying faithful and obedient at every step will allow us, one day, to see the miracle

BEST REMEDY: PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

HOW TO PREVENT YOUR DREAMS BEING SHATTERED

- 1. Dream for only what God wants for you**
- 2. Submit all your dreams to God**
- 3. See all set-backs in terms of Romans 8:28**

If they don't work out the way you want them to, God assures us that they are working out in a better way in the long run.

WHEN YOUR DREAMS GET SHATTERED, DON'T YOU GET SHATTERED

Maroubra Baptist Church

26 October 2014

WHAT TO DO...

Part 7. When Your Marriage Is Failing

BIBLE READING

¹⁵ Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ And don't get drunk with wine, which [leads to] reckless actions, but be filled by the Spirit: ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord, ²³ for the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so wives are to [submit] to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. ²⁷ He did this to present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰ since we are members of His body.

³¹ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.

³² This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband. Ephesians 5:15-33 p1528

WHAT TO DO...Part 7. When Your Marriage Is Failing

Put up with it

No! Fix it

Don't abandon it

You've made a commitment

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 1 John 2:1

What does God wants us to do when our marriage is failing?

Fix It

Strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.¹³ “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble. Hebrews 12:12-15

Strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.¹³ “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble. Hebrews 12:12-15

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. 2 Corinthians 6:14

THREE STEPS TO TAKE

1. COMMIT

a. Commit To God

So God has given us both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can take new courage. For we can hold onto his promise with confidence. This confidence is like a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. Hebrews 6:18-19

¹⁵ Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk

—not as unwise people but as wise—

¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

¹⁸ And don't get drunk with wine, which [leads to] reckless actions,

but be filled by the Spirit:

b. Commit To your marriage

¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music from your heart to the Lord,

²⁰ giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her

³³ To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband. Ephesians 5:15-33 p1528

Treasure your marriage

2. COMMUNICATE

a. Communicate With God in prayer

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

Pray to God for your partner
Pray to God with your partner

b. Communicate With your spouse

Confess your faults to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

Control the tongue and you control you

Communication Involves Listening

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. James 1:19

Communicate encouragement

Speak value into our wives and families

c. With a counselor and/or trusted friend.

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel. Proverbs 12:15

Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days. Proverbs 19:20

3. CORRECT

a. Identify what's wrong

b. Correct What's Wrong

Repent

This book shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it, for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.
Joshua 1:8

Forgive

Apologise, because you need forgiveness too

The secret is living for others

Offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God

Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.
Romans 12:1-2

Let's offer ourselves as Living Sacrifices to our spouses

Maroubra Baptist Church

9 November 2014

WHAT TO DO...

Part 8. When There's A Financial Crisis

READING Matthew 6:19-34 p1280

- Riches in heaven
- God and possessions

WHAT IS A FINANCIAL CRISIS?

Bills to pay? No

We all have bills to pay.

Limited income? No

You can save on any income as long as you spend less than you receive.

Big mortgage? No.

As long as you can make the payments.

No money in the bank? No

As long as your budget covers your expenditure.

VALID REASONS FOR NOT HAVING MONEY

Mostly based on choice

Mostly involving the strategy of Delayed Gratification

Studying

Choice of vocation. Serving the lord

Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. (Matthew 8:20)

Moses turned his back on the treasures of Egypt.

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter²⁵ and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the short-lived pleasure of sin.²⁶ For he considered the reproach because of the Messiah to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since his attention was on the reward. Hebrews 11:24-26

CT Studd turned his back on fame and fortune

SO WHAT THEN IS A FINANCIAL CRISIS?

Or is it a divine correction?

A financial crisis is when our bills swamp us and we are not able to meet our obligations.

Often caused by...

Living beyond our means

Mismanagement

And don't forget that it's God's money we are managing.

Living beyond our needs

Before we do anything...

A. GET AN ACCURATE LIE OF THE LAND

Know well the condition of your flocks, and pay attention to your herds, for riches are not forever, nor does a crown endure to all generations. Proverbs 27:23-24

What you measure you control - Business consultant.

B. TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION IMMEDIATELY

A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it. Proverbs 22:3

THREE THINGS TO CHANGE

1. CHANGE YOUR MIND

(1) Repent before God

We've used our money unwisely. And that's not good because I'm a steward and not an owner.

It's a heart issue. Not a monetary issue.

Turn my heart toward Your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Psalm 119:36 p1232

(2) Recognise whose money it is

2. CHANGE YOUR PRIORITIES

(1) Take an eternal perspective

Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out... Luke 12:33

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Matthew 6:19-20

(2) Stop loving money

The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. 1 Timothy 6:10

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. Ecclesiastes 5:10

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Mark 8:36

(3) Start loving God more than money

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33

(4) Develop contentment

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. Philippians 4:12

3. CHANGE YOUR HABITS

(1) Serve God, not money

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Matthew 6:24

(2) Practice giving

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 NIV

One of the best ways to break the money curse is to be a giver

Giving generously to God shows us and him that we are able to give it away.

Then God knows that he can trust us with more

(3) Trust God

My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.

⁷ *Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

⁸ *And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.*

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:11

Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this way,” says the LORD of Hosts. “See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure. Malachi 3:10

PRACTICAL HINTS

Don't spend beyond your means

Don't carry credit card debt

Don't put on credit card anything you can't pay for in 30 days.

Establish a cushion

Maroubra Baptist Church

16 November 2014

WHAT TO DO...

Part 9. When A Loved One Dies

BIBLE READING

Jesus comforts his disciples. John 14:1-6, 27

p1379

The believer's triumph. 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

p1467

What To Do When A Loved One Dies?

We cry

We grieve

God knows how crushed we are when a loved one dies

We grieve, BUT not like those who have no hope. (1

Thessalonians 4:13 p1446)

WE GRIEVE APPROPRIATELY

INAPPROPRIATE WAYS OF GRIEVING

(1) Grieving to convince people that we loved that person

(2) Grieving to punish ourselves

(3) Grieving by giving up on life

APPROPRIATE WAYS OF GRIEVING - ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD

1. GRIEVE WITH HOPE AND ASSURANCE

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 1 Thessalonians 4:13 p1446

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 1 Thessalonians 4:14 p1446

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26 p1341

2. GRIEVE WITH THANKSGIVING

IF THEY WERE BORN AGAIN...

(1) Thank God that they are still alive

He who believes in me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26 p1341

(2) Thank God for the victory they are enjoying now

Death has been swallowed up in victory. 1 Corinthians 15:54 p1467

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:56-57 p1467

(3) Thank God that they are rejoicing now

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:56-57 p1467

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21 p1530

(4) Thank God that they occupy their mansion now

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. John 14:2-3 p1379

(5) Thank God that if they had suffered they will never suffer again

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Revelation 21:4 p1595

(6) Thank God that if they had served God well they are enjoying eternal rewards

They have already been welcomed by Jesus' smiling face as he said to them, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord." Matthew 25:21 p1371

(7) Thank God that we'll be reunited shortly if we trust God too

Thank God for the hope, assurance and confidence that we have in Christ... through trusting Him

3. GRIEVE WITH TRUST IN GOD

IF THEY WERE NOT BORN AGAIN...

(1) Entrust them to a just judge

Will not the Judge of all the earth do right? Genesis 18:25 p83

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness and truth. Psalm 86:15 p587

(2) Don't underestimate God's grace

You never know what happens between the saddle and the ground

(3) Don't torture yourself unnecessarily

Prevention is better than cure.

4. GRIEVE WITH NO REGRETS

SET YOURSELF UP TO GRIEVE WELL

(1) Don't regret things said

Your speech should always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person. Colossians 4:6 p1523

Don't let the sun go down on your anger, and don't give the Devil an opportunity. Ephesians 4:26-27 p1527

(2) Don't regret things unsaid

DO IT NOW

If with pleasure you are viewing any work a man is doing,
If you like him or you love him, tell him now;
Don't withhold your approbation till the parson makes oration
And he lies with snowy lilies on his brow;

No matter how you shout it he won't really care about it;
He won't know how many teardrops you have shed;
If you think some praise is due him now's the time to slip it to him,
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

More than fame and more than money is the comment kind and sunny
And the hearty, warm approval of a friend.
For it gives to life a savor, and it makes you stronger, braver,
And it gives you heart and spirit to the end;

If he earns your praise - bestow it; if you like him let him know it;
Let the words of true encouragement be said;
Do not wait till life is over and he's underneath the clover,
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

B. Braley

(3) Don't regret things unresolved

Not apologising

So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you,²⁴ leave

your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24 p1278

Not forgiving

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how many times could my brother sin against me and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"²² "I tell you, not as many as seven," Jesus said to him, "but 70 times seven. Matthew 18:21-22 p1319

(4) Don't regret things undone

Make the most of the time. Ephesians 5:16 p1528

(5) Don't regret not sharing Christ with your loved one

God reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 2 Corinthians 5:18 p1472

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 p1407

MY FRIEND?

My friend, I stand in judgment now
And feel that you're to blame somehow
While on this earth I walked with you day by day
And never did you point the way
You knew the Lord in truth and glory
But never did you tell the story
My knowledge then was very dim
You could have led me safe to him
Though we lived together here on earth
You never told me of your second birth
And now I stand this day condemned
Because you failed to mention him

You taught me many things, that's true
I called you friend and trusted you
But now I learned, now it's too late
You could have kept me from this fate
We walked by day and talked by night
And yet you showed me not the light
You let me live, love and die
And all the while you knew I'd never live on high
Yes, I called you friend in life
And trusted you in joy and strife
Yet in coming to this end
I see you really weren't my friend

(6) Don't regret not praying for your loved one

You do not have because you do not ask. James 4:2 p1429

Maroubra Baptist Church

23 November 2014

WHAT TO DO...

Part 10. When Your Children Stray

BIBLE READING

The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-24 p1337

Even the perfect Father has rebellious children

Build a clear pathway back

The younger son gathered together all he had and traveled to a distant country, where he squandered his estate in foolish living. Luke 15:13

THREE THINGS TO DO

1. ENTRUST YOUR CHILD TO GOD'S CARE

The younger son gathered together all he had and traveled to a distant country. Luke 15:13

You know when I sit down and when I stand up...³ You observe my travels and my rest; You are aware of all my ways. Psalm 139:2-3

Where can I go to escape Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?⁸ If I go up to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there.⁹ If I live at the eastern horizon or settle at the western limits,¹⁰ even there Your hand will lead me; Your right hand will hold on to me. Psalm 139:7-10

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me, and the light around me will be night"—¹² even the darkness is not dark to You. The night shines like the day; darkness and light are alike to You. Psalm 139:11-12

Cast all your care on Him, because He cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7

2. WATCH AND PRAY FERVENTLY

(1) Pray for protection while they are straying

He squandered his estate in foolish living. Luke 15:13

(2) Pray for Godly influencers

He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. Proverbs 13:20

I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: My plan will take place, and I will do all My will.¹¹ I call a bird of prey from the east, a man for My purpose from a far country. Yes, I have spoken; so I will also bring it about. I have planned it; I will also do it. Isaiah 46:10-11

(3) Pray for a hedge of thorns

I will hedge up her way with thorns, and I will build a wall against her so that she cannot find her path and she will pursue her lovers, but she will not reach them. She will seek them but not find them. Then she will say, "I will go back to my first husband. For it was better for me than now." Hosea 2:3-6

(4) Pray for them to hunger for home

After he had spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he had nothing.¹⁵ Then he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed

pigs.¹⁶ He longed to eat his fill from the carob pods the pigs were eating, but no one would give him any. Luke 15:14-16

(5) Pray for them to remember how good it was at home

How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, and here I am dying of hunger! Luke 15:17

(6) Pray for them to come to their senses

When he came to his senses... Luke 15:17

(7) Pray that they will decide to come home

I'll get up, go to my father, and say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight.¹⁹ I'm no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired hands.' Luke 15:18-19

(8) Pray that they will follow through with their decision

So he got up and went to his father. Luke 15:20

3. WAIT EXPECTANTLY

(1) The Father saw his son while still a long way away

So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. Luke 15:20

(2) The Father ran to meet him

He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. Luke 15:20

(3) The Father called for a celebration

But the father told his slaves, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.'²³

Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let's celebrate with a feast,²⁴ because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:22-24

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

4. MODEL AND DISCIPLE EARLY ON

- *You must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today.*
- *Repeat them again and again to your children.*
- *Talk about them when you are at home*
- *and when you are away on a journey,*
- *when you are lying down*
- *and when you are getting up again." Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

We teach what we know, but we reproduce what we are

So if we reproduce what we are, then let's be all that God wants us to be

In a nutshell...

Make it so that they desire more to stay than to stray

Pray that they don't stray

If they do stray, pray them home

Maroubra Baptist Church

30 November 2014

WHAT TO DO...

Part 11. When Satan Attacks

Part 11. What To Do When Satan Attacks

BIBLE READING: Ephesians 6:10-18 p1529

He turned and told Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me because you're not thinking about God's concerns, but man's." Matthew 16:23

Satanic attack mostly comes through temptation

Each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desires. James 1:14

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity. God is faithful, and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape so that you are able to bear it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials,³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.⁴ But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2-4

You rejoice in this, though now for a short time you have had to struggle in various trials⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6-7

1. BE PREPARED

Be well strengthened

Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. Ephesians 6:10

Be well protected

Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil.¹² For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.¹³ This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.¹⁴ Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest,¹⁵ and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace.¹⁶ In every situation take the shield of faith, and with it you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word. Ephesians 6:11-17

Belt of truth

Breastplate of righteousness

Shoes of the gospel

And having shod your feet in preparation to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news of the Gospel of peace. Ephesians 6:15 AMP

Shield of faith

Helmet of salvation

Be well armed

Take the... sword of the Spirit, which is God's word. Ephesians 6:17

For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

Be well practiced

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Be well prayed up

Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request... with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18

Be well aware

And stay alert in this. Ephesians 6:18

Be serious! Be alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.⁹ Resist him and be firm in the faith... 1 Peter 5:8-9

2. BE CONFIDENT

- We are more than conquerors. Romans 8:37
- If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31
- We are protected by God's power. 1 Peter 1:5

- Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7
- No attack will be more than we can bear. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- There will always be a way of escape. 1 Corinthians 10:13

We can only be confident if we are prayerful.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. Ephesians 6:10-18

We can only be confident if we look to Him to give us the victory.

He gives us the victory. 1 Corinthians 15:57

We can only be confident if we are walking in holiness.

Demonstrating the fruit of repentance. Matthew 3:8
Keeping in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:25
Walking in the light. 1 John 1:7

3. BE VICTORIOUS

- Fight the good fight of faith. 1 Timothy 6:12
- He gives us the victory. 1 Corinthians 15:57
- Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7
- Exercise your authority (God's authority)

- **Demonstrate your power (God's power)**

*To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever.
Amen. 1 Peter 4:11*

*To... Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power,
and authority before all time, now and forever. Jude 1:25*

*His divine power has given us everything required for life
and godliness... 2 Peter 1:3*

He is able to protect you from stumbling... Jude 1:24

- **Fight with God's weapons**

- **Humility**
- **Turning the other cheek**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Apology**
- **Returning good for evil.**

OUR AUTHORITY

Jesus had authority over evil spirits

All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!" Luke 4:36

Jesus had all authority

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus gave his disciples authority

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits... Matthew 10:1

They were amazed at this authority

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." Luke 10:17

We have authority

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

That authority is in us because Jesus is in us and with us because Jesus is with us

Therefore, we can be confident to rebuke Satan IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

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