

### **CHOOSING YOUR FUTURE**

God's Vision for the Rest of Your Life
Rick Warren

To Resolve: to decide, settle, determine, purpose

Resolution: a firm determination to do something

### **MOSES' 4 LIFE-SHAPING CHOICES**

Hebrews 11:23-27

1.

"By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, <u>refused to be known as the son of</u> Pharaoh's daughter." Hebrews 11:24 (NIV)

"Don't let the world around you <u>squeeze you into its own mould</u>, but let God remould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that <u>the plan of</u> God for you is good." Romans 12:2 (PHILLIPS)

"<u>Our purpose</u> is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts." 1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NLT)

"I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

2.

"He <u>chose</u> to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting <u>pleasures</u> of sin." Hebrews 11:25 (NIV)

"We also have joy with our troubles, because we know that these troubles produce patience. And patience produces character, and character produces hope."

Romans 5:3-4 (NCV)

"For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!"

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)

3.

"He <u>regarded</u> disgrace for the sake of Christ as of <u>greater value</u> than the treasures of <u>Egypt</u>, <u>because he was looking ahead</u> to his reward." Hebrews 11:26 (NIV)

#### WHAT THE WORLD VALUES

- Popularity (Prestige & Power) vs. 24
- Pleasure "the pleasures of sin" vs. 25

Possessions "the treasures of Egypt" vs. 26

"The world and everything in it that people desire is passing away; but those who do the will of God live forever." 1 John 2:17 (GNT)

#### WHAT GOD VALUES

1.	is more valuable than popularity (vs. 24
2.	are more valuable than pleasure (vs. 25
3.	is more valuable than possessions (vs. 26

"By <u>faith</u> he left Egypt, <u>not fearing</u> the king's anger; he <u>persevered</u> because he <u>saw</u> him who is invisible." Hebrews 11:27 (NIV)

#### **HOW DO I KEEP MY RESOLUTIONS?**

- "Let us be concerned for one another, to <u>help one another</u> to show love and to do good. Let us not give up <u>the habit of meeting together</u>, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another." Hebrews 10:24-25 (GNT)
- "Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore, I have set my face like a stone, determined to do his will. And I know that I will not be put to shame." Isaiah 50:7 (NLT)

# Next Steps

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### LEARNING TO LIVE WISELY

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"Wisdom is more precious than rubies. Nothing you could want is equal to it."

Proverbs 8:11 (NCV)

"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do." Proverbs 4:7 (GNT)

"If you become wise, <u>you will be the one to benefit</u>. If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer." Proverbs 9:12 (NLT)

#### SOLOMON: THE BENEFITS OF WISDOM

"Wisdom is good for the soul. Get wisdom and you have a bright future."

Proverbs 24:14 (GNT)

"Those who get wisdom do themselves a favor, and those who love learning will succeed." Proverbs 19:8 (NCV)

"Treasure wisdom, and it will make you great; hold on to it, and it will bring you honor." Proverbs 4:8 (NCV)

"Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life." Proverbs 9:11 (NLT)

"Wise people have great power." Proverbs 24:5 (NCV)

"Wise people will gain an honorable reputation." Proverbs 3:35 (GNT)

"Wise people's lives get better and better." Proverbs 15:24 (NCV)

"Wisdom offers you <u>long life</u>, as well as <u>wealth</u> and <u>honor</u>. Wisdom can make your <u>life pleasant</u> and <u>lead you safely</u> through it. Those who become wise are <u>happy</u>; wisdom will give them life." Proverbs 3:16-18 (GNT)

"Nothing will stand in your way if you walk wisely, and you will not stumble when you run." Proverbs 4:12 (GNT)

"Learn to be wise . . . and develop good judgment." Proverbs 4:5 (NLT)

#### **HOW DO I LEARN TO BE WISE?**

"Start with God—the first step in learning is bowing down to God."

Proverbs 1:7 (MSG)

"It is the Lord who gives wisdom; from him come knowledge and understanding."

Proverbs 2:6 (GNT)

"A wise person is <u>hungry for knowledge</u>, while the fool feeds on trash."

Proverbs 15:14 (NLT)

Е

"Spend time with the wise and you will become wise, but the friends of fools will suffer." Proverbs 13:20 (NCV)

"Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others."

Proverbs 12:15 (NLT)

Α

"The intelligent man is always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them."

Proverbs 18:15 (TLB)

"If you stop learning, you will forget what you already know." Proverbs 19:27 (CEV)

R

"Listen, and I will teach you what the wise have said. Study their teachings, and you will be glad if you remember them and can quote them." Proverbs 22:17-18 (GNT)

"Don't lose sight of them. Let them <u>penetrate deep into your heart</u>, for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body." Proverbs 4:21-22 (NLT)

N

"Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, <u>put it into practice</u>. If you listen to the word, but do not put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves and then go away and at once forget what they look like. But if you look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, and <u>keep on paying attention</u> to it and <u>do not</u> simply listen and <u>then forget it</u>, but <u>put it into practice</u>—you <u>will be blessed</u> by God in what you do." James 1:22-25 (GNT)

Next Step

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# **EMBRACING THE VISION:** THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

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"It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for . . . part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone."

Ephesians 1:11 (MSG)

"Everything, absolutely everything . . . got started in him and finds its purpose in him." Colossians 1:16 (MSG)

#### 1. GOD PLANNED ME

"You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased."

Revelation 4:11 (NLT)

"The Lord takes pleasure in his people." Psalm 149:4 (GNT)

"Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love." Ephesians 1:4 (MSG)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment." Matthew 22:37-38 (NIV)

"I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don't want your offerings—I want you to know me." Hosea 6:6 (TLB)

#### THE 1st PURPOSE OF LIFE IS:

"Some of these people have missed the most important thing in life—they don't know God." 1 Timothy 6:21 (TLB)

"People who don't know God are always worrying." Matthew 6:32 (CEV)

#### 2. GOD FORMED ME

"God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure." Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

"God . . . has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family." 1 Peter 1:3 (TLB)

"That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15 (NCV)

"Love your spiritual family." 1 Peter 2:17 (MSG)
THE 2 <sup>nd</sup> PURPOSE OF LIFE IS: "We belong to each other, and each needs all the others."
Romans 12:5 (NLT)
GOD CREATED ME
"From the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son." Romans 8:29 (TLB)
"We look at this Son and see <u>God's original purpose</u> in everything created."  Colossians 1:15 (MSG)

"In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5 (NCV)

"As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him." 2 Corinthians 3:18 (TLB)

### THE 3<sup>rd</sup> PURPOSE OF LIFE IS:

"There is such shallow soil of character that when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it." Mark 4:17 (MSG)

#### 4. GOD "SHAPED" ME

"You shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13 (MSG)

Spiritual Gifts Heart Abilities Personality Experiences

3.

"God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing."

Ephesians 2:10 (NCV)

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings."

1 Peter 4:10 (TLB)

### THE 4<sup>th</sup> PURPOSE OF LIFE IS:

#### 5. GOD MADE ME

Jesus: "In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world." John 17:18 (MSG)

"Where there is no <u>vision</u>, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

"Those who embrace these my ways are most blessed." Proverbs 8:32 (MSG)

"He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own."

2 Corinthians 5:15 (MSG)

"Open your eyes and see—how good God is. Blessed are you who run to him."
Psalm 34:8 (MSG)

Jesus: "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? <u>Come to me.</u> . . . and <u>you'll recover your life.</u> . . . and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

"It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open." Acts 10:35 (MSG)

#### A PRAYER OF PURPOSE

Dear God, thank you for creating me and loving me. I want to fulfill the purposes that you created me for. So, starting today, I really want to get to know and love and trust you. I want my life to bring you pleasure and I want to become a part of your family. Help me to grow more like your Son Jesus, and to use my life to follow and serve you. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for me. In the weeks ahead, help me to understand your vision and mission for the rest of my life.

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### WHY YOU NEED A CHURCH FAMILY

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### **FIVE BENEFITS OF A CHURCH FAMILY**

MY LIFE AROUND GOD

A CHURCH HELPS ME

	You were planned for God's pleasure.
	"His love has the first and last word in everything we do. Our firm decision is to work from this focused center." 2 Corinthians 5:14 (MSG)
	"It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the $\underline{center\ of\ your}$ $\underline{life}$ ." Philippians 4:6-7 (MSG)
	THE BIBLE CALLS THIS:
	"You have six days when you can do your work, but the seventh day of each week is holy because it belongs to me. No matter where you live, you must rest on the Sabbath and <u>come together for worship</u> ." Leviticus 23:3 (CEV)
	"They worshipped together regularly at the Temple each day." Acts 2:46 (TLB)
	"We <u>celebrate</u> as we worship you." Psalm 68:4 (CEV)
2.	A CHURCH HELPS ME WITH OTHER BELIEVERS You were formed for God's family.
2.	
2.	You were formed for God's family.  "Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other."
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2.	You were formed for God's family.  "Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other."  Romans 12:5 (GW)  "The Body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cutoff toe we wouldn't amount to much." Romans 12:5 (MSG)
2.	You were formed for God's family.  "Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other."  Romans 12:5 (GW)  "The Body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cutoff toe we wouldn't amount to much." Romans 12:5 (MSG)  "The person who loves God must also love other believers." 1 John 4:21 (GW)

**HOW CAN I JOIN THIS CHURCH FAMILY?** 

1. CHOOSE TO BELONG! DISCOVERING MEMBERSHIP

household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

"First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God's will, they gave themselves to us as well." 2 Corinthians 8:5 (GNT)

#### 2. SHOW YOUR COMMITMENT BY BAPTISM

"This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were <u>baptized</u>. Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body." 1 Corinthians 12:13 (MSG)

"That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus." Romans 6:3 (MSG)

"Your strong love for each other will <u>prove</u> to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35 (TLB)

## 3. A CHURCH HELPS ME \_\_\_\_\_\_ SPIRITUAL MATURITY

You were created to become like Christ.

"He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

"Their purpose is to prepare God's people to serve and to build up the body of Christ . . . <u>until we become mature</u>, until we measure up to Christ, who is the standard." Ephesians 4:12-13 (GW)

## THE BIBLE CALLS THIS:

"God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything." Ephesians 4:15 (MSG)

"Don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others." 2 Peter 1:5 (MSG)

"Those who <u>believed</u> . . . were <u>baptized</u> and <u>added to the church</u> . . . All the believers <u>devoted themselves</u> to the apostles' <u>teaching</u>, and <u>to fellowship</u>. . . . They <u>worshiped together</u> at the Temple each day, <u>met in homes</u> for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity." Acts 2:41-46 (NLT)

#### TO GROW I NEED . . .

Large group worship: at the "Temple courts" Small group fellowship: in a home! (Acts 5:42)

"When your faith is tested, your endurance has <u>a chance to</u> grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be <u>perfect and complete</u>, needing nothing." James 1:3-4 (NLT)

# 4. A CHURCH HELPS ME \_\_\_\_\_ SOMETHING BACK

You were shaped to serve God.

"God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others." Ephesians 2:10 (TLB)

"We are partners working together for God, and you are God's field."

1 Corinthians 3:9 (GNT)

"Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively." Ecclesiastes 4:9 (GNT)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS MY \_\_\_\_\_

"Fully carry out the ministry God has given you." 2 Timothy 4:5 (NLT)

### **Discovering My Ministry**

"He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers." Hebrews 6:10 (NLT)

"Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever useless." 1 Corinthians 15:58 (GNT)

### 5. A CHURCH HELPS ME GOD'S MESSAGE

You were made for a mission.

"Through Christ, God made peace between us and himself, and God gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with him. . . . He gave us this message of peace. So we have been sent to speak for Christ."

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NCV)

#### THE BIBLE CALLS THIS MY

"You are . . . God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you." 1 Peter 2:9 (MSG)

"Live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ . . . standing strong with one purpose as you work together as one for the faith of the Good News." Philippians 1:27 (NCV)

## **Discovering My Mission**

"This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is . . . changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace." Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

Jesus: "I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times." Mark 10:29-30 (NLT)

> A Great Commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will produce Great Christians and a Great Church

#### THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT)

### THE GREAT COMMISSION

"Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you." Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

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# **ENABLING THE VISION:** PURPOSE DRIVEN GIVING

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"Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven—it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well." 1 Timothy 6:18-19 (TLB)

#### **GOD'S 5 ETERNAL INVESTMENT FUNDS**

Purpose Driven Giving

1.	GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS FUND "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Matthew 6:19-20 (NIV)
	"Give up your lust for money the Almighty himself will be your treasure." Job 22:24-25 (NLT)
	HOW? BY USING SOME OF MY MONEY TO:
	"Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income." Proverbs 3:9 (TLB)
	"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21 (NIV)
	WHAT KIND OF GIVING IS "WORSHIP GIVING"?  • IT IS
	"None of you may sell or buy back what you have unconditionally dedicated to the Lord." Leviticus 27:28 (GNT)
	• IT IS GIVENI WORSHIP  "On every Lord's Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn." 1 Corinthians 16:2 (TLB)
	"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first."  Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

"Love one another with mutual affection." Romans 12:10 (NABRE)

2. GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS

**FUND** 

#### HOW?

		MONEY	

COD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS

"Share what you have with God's people who are in need. Be hospitable." Romans 12:13 (GW)

"Think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works." Hebrews 10:24 (NLT)

#### WHY?

"This service you do not only helps the needs of God's people, it also brings many more thanks to God. It is a proof of your faith. Many people will praise God because you obey the Good News of Christ—the gospel you say you believe—and because you freely share with them and with all others." 2 Corinthians 9:12-13 (NCV)

"When you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible." 3 John 1:5 (MSG)

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalms 133:1 (MSG)

ELIND

ა.	GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS FOND
	"Grow in spiritual strength and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior
	Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18 (TLB)
	HOW?
	BY LISING SOME OF MY MONEY TO:

"The earnings of the godly enhance their lives, but evil people squander their money on sin." Proverbs 10:16 (NLT)

"Buy truth—don't sell it for love or money; buy wisdom, buy education, buy insight." Proverbs 22:23 (MSG)

"Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? . . . Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good." Isaiah 55:2 (NLT)

"It is better—much better—to have wisdom and knowledge than gold and silver." Proverbs 16:16 (MSG)

"Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life-and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him." Romans 12:1 (MSG)

4.	GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS	<b>FUND</b>
	"They gave as much as they were able and even more than they could a	fford. No
	one told them to do it. But they begged and pleaded with us to let them	share in
	this service for God's people." 2 Corinthians 8:3-4 (NCV)	

HOW?

#### BY USING SOME OF MY MONEY TO:

"I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT)

"We must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive."" Acts 20:35 (NRSVA)

"The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller." Proverbs 11:24 (MSG)

"Give to the poor and you will never be in need. If you close your eyes to the poor, many will curse you." Proverbs 28:27 (GNT)

"When you give to the poor, it is like lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back." Proverbs 19:17 (GNT)

"Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, and you say, 'Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well'—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless."

James 2:15-17 (NLT)

#### 5. GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS

**FUND** 

God: "I'm setting you up as a light for the nations so that my salvation becomes global!" Isaiah 49:6 (MSG)

#### HOW?

### BY USING SOME OF MY MONEY TO:

"Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings." Luke 16:9 (NIV)

"We must support believers who go on trips like this so that we can work together with them in spreading the truth." 3 John 1:8 (GW)

"You will honor God through this genuine act of service because of your commitment to spread the Good News of Christ and because of your generosity in sharing." 2 Corinthians 9:13 (GW)

God: "Ask, and I will give you all the nations; the whole earth will be yours."

Psalm 2:8 (GNT)

#### **HOW CAN I AFFORD TO MAKE THESE INVESTMENTS?**

"If you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?" Luke 16:11 (NLT)

"God gives seed to the farmer and food to those who need to eat. God will also give you seed and multiply it. In your lives he will increase the things you do that have his approval." 2 Corinthians 9:10 (GW)

#### THE PRAYER OF AGUR

"Lord . . . don't let me become too poor or too rich. Give me just what I need. If I have too much to eat, I might forget about you; if I don't have enough, I might steal and disgrace your name." Proverbs 30:7-9 (CEV)

"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done."

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (TLB)

#### THE KEY PURPOSE DRIVEN GIVING

"They had first given themselves unreservedly to God and to us. The other giving simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives."

2 Corinthians 8:5 (MSG)

"The people were overjoyed that the leaders gave so generously and wholeheartedly to the Lord. King David was also overjoyed, and he praised the Lord while the whole assembly watched. David said, '... Greatness, power, splendor, glory, and majesty are yours, Lord, because everything in heaven and on earth is yours. The kingdom is yours, Lord, and you are honored as head of all things. You rule everything. You hold power and strength in your hands, and you can make anyone great and strong. Our God, we thank you and praise your wonderful name. But who am I and who are my people that you enable us to give so generously? Everything comes from you. We give you only what has come from your hands." 1 Chronicles 29:9-14 (GW)

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## **HOW TO GET READY TO BE USED BY GOD**

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"Give yourselves completely to God . . . you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes." Romans 6:13 (TLB)

#### STEP 1: PURIFY

"If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work." 2 Timothy 2:21 (NLT)

"Joshua told the people, 'Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you." Joshua 3:5 (NLT)

"If we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing." 1 John 1:9 (GNT)

STEP 2: SANCTIFY
Sanctify = to dedicate for special purposes

"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)

"You made my body, Lord; now give me sense to heed your laws."

Psalm 119:73 (TLB)

"All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize." 1 Corinthians 9:25 (NLT)

#### STEP 3: SIMPLIFY

"We should <u>remove</u> from our lives anything that would get in the way . . . <u>holds us</u> back." Hebrews 12:1 (NCV)

"Anyone who lets himself be <u>distracted</u> from the work I plan for him is not fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62 (TLB)

"As Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in worldly affairs, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army."

2 Timothy 2:4 (NLT)

Jesus: "Those who want to come with me must say no to the things they want, pick up their crosses, and follow me." Matthew 16:24 (GW)

"No one can serve two masters. . . . You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

**STEP 4: FORTIFY**"Strengthen yourselves so that you will live here on earth doing what God wants, not evil things people want." 1 Peter 4:2 (NCV)

"Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit."

1 Timothy 4:7 (TLB)

### STUDY

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

hope you have." 1 Peter 3:15 (NCV)

## SUPPORT\_\_\_\_

"Encourage each other and build each other up."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

### STEP 5: APPLY

"Our people <u>must learn to do good deeds</u> to meet necessary demands [whatever the occasion may require], so that they will not be unproductive." Titus 3:14 (AMP)

"Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless." Isaiah 1:17 (MSG)

"Stay true to what is right and God will bless you and use you to help others."

1 Timothy 4:16 (TLB)



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