

Renewing Our Minds

13. In order to walk with God _____, we are to renew our minds and be committed to doing His will (Genesis 9: 20-25; 1 John 1:9; Romans 12:1-2; see Principle 21 in Romans).

Reflection and Response

In what specific ways can we consistently renew our minds in order to live in God's will? (See Philippians 4:8.)

Overcoming Pride

14. We should avoid the sin of _____ which can lead us to build our own kingdom rather than the kingdom of God (Genesis 11:4-9; Philippians 2:3-5; see Principle 6 in Philippians).

Reflection and Response

In what specific ways did Jesus Christ model humility for all of us? (See Philippians 2:5-8.)

God's Mercy

15. Since God reached out to us before we reached out to Him, we should always thank Him for saving us by His sovereign _____ (Genesis 11:31-32; 12:1-3; Romans 3:10-12; John 1:11-12; Ephesians 2:18-20; see Principle 5 in Ephesians).

Reflection and Response

Why do so many people confuse *grace* and *works* in God's plan of salvation?

Seeking God's Wisdom

16. When we face difficult circumstances, we should always seek God's wisdom so that we'll continue to _____ in His _____ (Genesis 12:4-5, 10; Philippians 4:6-7; see Principle 2 in James; James 1:5-8).

Reflection and Response

As Christians, why do we so often fail to consult God when making strategic decisions?

Overcoming Mistakes

17. We should do all we can to walk in God's will, even though we may have made _____ decisions in the past that have created our present crises (Genesis 12:11-15; 20:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; see Principle 8 in 2 Timothy).

Reflection and Response

When consulting the Scriptures for guidance in making a decision, why is it important to also consult other mature Christians for wisdom and understanding?

Material Blessings

18. We should never conclude that wealth in itself is an indication of God's _____ of our attitudes and behavior (Genesis 12:16; 13:1-4; Matthew 5:45b; Ephesians 4:17, 4:25; see Principle 70 in Psalms).

Reflection and Response

What are some of the areas where we as Christians can be easily tempted to be dishonest and unethical and then rationalize this sinful behavior because we're accumulating more worldly possessions?

Self-Evaluation

19. We must continually _____ our motives and behavior in the light of God's directives in the Word of God (Genesis 13:5-6, 13:8-11; 2 Peter 2:8; see Principle 6 in 1 John; 1 John 2:15-17).

Reflection and Response

What are some of the things in our own environment that constantly tempt us to make decisions that will lead us to "love the world or the things that belong to the world," and how can we avoid following Lot's negative example?

Inappropriate Fellowship

20. To avoid losing our _____ bearings, we must avoid having fellowship with unbelievers who are living immoral and evil lives (Genesis 13:12-13, 13:18; see Principle 10 in 2 Corinthians; 2 Corinthians 6:14-16b).

Reflection and Response

How can we be a witness in the world without becoming like the world? In other words, how can we develop friendships without having close fellowship?

Growing in Faith

21. When we face periods of _____ and _____, we are to look to God to protect us and to meet our needs (Genesis 15:1; see Principle 11 in Philippians; Philippians 4:1, 6-7).

Reflection and Response

When we face temptations and trials in our lives as Christians, what practical steps can we take to overcome our doubts and fears and to learn to trust God even more?

Justified by Faith

22. No matter what our religious background, we must _____ our faith in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ (Genesis 15:4-6; Romans 4:1-2, 4:9-10, 4:13, 4:23-25, 5:1-2; see Principle 7 in Romans).

Reflection and Response

How can all people who call themselves Christians make sure that they have truly personalized the message of Christ's death and resurrection and experienced a new birth as described by Jesus in John 3:1-16?

NEW TESTAMENT PRINCIPLES

13. Principle 21 in Romans—Christ-Centered Worship

In view of God's mercy, we are to humbly acknowledge His sovereign grace and worship Him by offering all parts of our bodies as a living sacrifice.

14. Principle 6 in Philippians—Imitating Christ

If each one of us is to live a life "worthy of the Gospel," we must live in harmony with one another, demonstrating Christ's attitudes of unselfishness, humility and self-sacrifice.

15. Principle 5 in Ephesians—Oneness in Christ

Regardless of our ethnic backgrounds, when we become believers we are to function as members of one family.

16. Principle 2 in James—"Wisdom from Above"

In order to face trials with a proper perspective, we must seek God's wisdom to live in His will.

17. Principle 8 in 2 Timothy—Standing Firm on Scripture

As people become more and more corrupt in their thinking, attitudes and actions, we must continue to focus on God's message in the Holy Scriptures.

18. Principle 70 in Psalms—Eternal Perspective

In order to maintain our spiritual equilibrium, we are to have an eternal perspective on material possessions rather than focusing on the temporary prosperity of the wicked.

19. Principle 6 in 1 John—Overcoming the World

We must constantly be on guard against worldly influences that dull our love for God and for one another and interfere with our capacity to know Him and our fellow Christians at an even deeper level.

20. Principle 10 in 2 Corinthians—Proper Relationships

We should maintain spiritual fellowship with authentic spiritual leaders and avoid relationships with false prophets and teachers that will deceive us.

21. Principle 11 in Philippians—Standing Firm

No matter what our circumstances in life, we are to "stand firm in the Lord" by being unified in our relationships, by seeking God's help through prayer and by imitating Jesus Christ.

22. Principle 7 in Romans—"The Father of Us All"

Since we are saved by faith and faith alone, we must clearly understand that “good works” have no part in making us righteous before God.