

Twelve Principles to Enhance Your Life Part 3

Romans 12:9-13

Intro: If you remember, last week we looked at **four more** principles or actions from Romans 12:9-13, that if applied to our lives would make not only others around us to live enhanced, more joyous lives. Another benefit will be that our lives will also be much more pleasant and enjoyable as well.

The first four principles or acts to pursue were to

- Love without hypocrisy
- Hate what is wrong, Stand on the side of the good.
- Love each other with genuine affection, And
- Give preference to one another or take delight in honoring each other.

The second four were to

- Not be lazy in our work
- Be fervent, passionate, or eager in spirit
- Serving the Lord enthusiastically.
- Rejoice in hope or to Be glad for all God is planning for you.

Now today lets begin looking at the final 4 that will enhance and enrich life, both ours and others, when we put them into practice.

A. Be patient and persevering in tribulation, hardship, trouble , or distress

Do you sometimes secretly think because you are a Christian that you should get a lot of things a little easier in life? How do you react to trials and hardships when they do come into your life? Have you ever been around folks that get grumpy, to say the least, when they find themselves in some sort of difficulty?

When they are grumpy and upset, or even mad because something happens to them, they don't seem to get very far in making their life one of joy and peace, nor the lives of those around them, do they? So if you want to enhance your own life as well as the lives of your family and friends, the first thing to do is to realize that you are going to have tribulation and that it is not designed to hurt you but to help you.

James 1:3,4 actually says *For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.* God wants you to be complete and fully developed so that you can influence and enhance the lives of others around you, and in the process you too will gain that peace and victory you desire

B. Continue steadfastly in prayer or in other words, *to always be prayerful.*

Prayer enhances our own life as we take our needs to the Lord but it also helps others as we pray for them as well. We can expect God to intervene when we have taken time to intercede, and when God intervenes in our life or in the life of another He will certainly enhance the lives he touches.

Prayer is not a device for getting our wills done through heaven, but a desire that God's will be done on earth through us. And we know that God's will is for us to live an abundant life John 10:10 says *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.* So we know that God wants our lives to not be humdrum and weary but to be enhanced and joyful so he gives us this principle of always being in prayer to call on him in that process.

Jeremiah 33:3 says *'Call to me and I will answer you and I will tell you some remarkable secrets about what is going to happen here.* In other words, pray, and he will disclose what he has in store for our lives, to be victorious and for the lives of others to be enhanced and enriched, as well, in the process.

C. *Distributing to the needs of the saints* or in other words, *When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out.*

Has there ever been a time when you needed some help? And did you have someone help you? If so did that act of kindness make your life a little more pleasant and bearable? Have you ever been the person to help someone else? How did that make you feel?

Well, that is what we are talking about here. We can enhance or make someone's life better when we offer a hand up, not necessarily a hand out once in a while. When we do that, we are acting like God and when we act like God he will bless our lives and our efforts so that in the end we as well as the other person, will be blessed.

Hebrews 6:10 encourages us with these words: For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. To do this we need to be alert to the needs in the body and as we are involved with one another we will have the opportunity to be both a

blessing and be blessed in the process. And let me ask, is there anyone here that could not use a blessing or afford to have their life brightened a bit?

D. *Be given to hospitality* or as the NLT reads, *And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night.* V 13 in Romans 12

Some of our greatest times in the Chr. life is when we have had missionaries stay in our homes or had folks over for meals. Hospitality is a dying art among believers but it is one that, if polished and used, will bring great happiness to both parties who are involved.

Hebrews 13:2 reminds us *Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!* You don't have to have a formal dinner, in order to lighten then load of another person and besides, if you go to all that stress you will lose the blessing that could be yours by sharing the simple things in life in a simple and loving homemade way.

Well we have looked at several principles or plans of action in these verses here in Romans 12. I believe that we can conclude that if we will practice even some of them, we will enhance and make the lives of those around us much more encouraging. And if we are busy doing that, we can't help reaping many residual blessings ourselves especially since we can't out give God.

Do you know anyone here who could not use some extra blessings in your life? Life is hard enough so why make it harder, just because we don't want to do some simple things that God has laid out for our success. These 12 principles or plans to enhance and brighten our life may change the way you view your world.

They were

- Love without hypocrisy
- Hate what is wrong, Stand on the side of the good.
- Love each other with genuine affection, And
- Give preference to one another or take delight in honoring each other.
- Not be lazy in our work
- Be fervent, passionate, or eager in spirit
- Serving the Lord enthusiastically.
- Rejoice in hope or to Be glad for all God is planning for you.

- Be patient and persevering in tribulation, hardship, trouble , or distress
- Continue steadfastly in prayer
- *Distributing to the needs of the saints*
- *Be given to hospitality*

How many would agree that if we can begin to learn and practice these principles, not only our lives will be brighter and more fulfilling but the lives of many of those around us will be richer as well?

And isn't it true that you want your life to be rich and full?

And isn't it true that you want your life to touch others in a special way?

And isn't it true that God wants you to be happy and to be used to make others happy in the process?

So my friend, lets take these principles and work on them. Don't expect to get them all done right away but I would suggest that if we will just work on one until we make some progress before going to the next one we will find that our life in Christ is well worth it.

Many small victories lead to big success May you be successful in all you do for the Lord and may your lives be rich and fulfilling!!

Once more as we close, is your life safe in Christ? That is the first step to real fulfillment. If this is not your case, you can do that today by understanding and following the information that follows on these next few lines.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them). Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)