

Obeying Jesus Commands #14: Walk in the Light—Seven Essentials

In Isaiah 43:7, God says this about mankind, “Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for **my glory**. It was I who created them. ” We were made to **glorify** God.”

What does a life that glorifies God look like? (1 Chronicles 16:28-29)

- 1) Giving honor to God with our praise and thanks for His goodness and greatness -- Psalm 145
- 2) Loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength... and our neighbors – Matt 22:37
- 3) Obeying Him through our actions and attitudes; knowing and making Him known—John 14:21
- 4) Representing Him well consistently as a godly witness to others in word and deed—I John 3:18
- 5) Yielding our wills to His; keeping Him first in our lives and having no other gods—Deut 5:6-21

The Purpose of Life

God is best glorified when we **know** and **understand** Him; **obeying** what He has told us to do; **honoring** him with our **praise and thanks**; putting **Him first** and in our lives; and **representing Him well** by being what we are meant **to be**, and doing what we are meant **to do**, finding our **complete satisfaction in Him** (See John 17).

First, what are the primary bad influencers that effect your attitudes toward others?

1) **Mind Reading:** You think you know why the other person is acting a certain way. By observing their behavior and what they say, you come to a conclusion based on inaccurate or incomplete information. Quick to judge according to your own evaluation and then relate to this person accordingly from that point on.

2) **Mind Feeding (with negative thoughts):** Always watching and/or listening to the bad news of this world. Letting negative people drive you down. Allowing lies (untruths) to influence the way you perceive and relate to those around you.

3) **Mind and Heart Bleeding**—Allowing past guilt (what you did) and resentment (what others did to you) and anger (from past hurt, injustice, fear, or frustration) to guide your treatment of others. Hurt people hurt people and the bullied bully others. All these compounded past wounds, wound others. The infection spreads.

What does God provide as a way to **remove and replace** these negative factors?

Mind and heart renewing—Positive thoughts and actions

1) **Renewing:** “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the **renewing** of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Rom 12:2-3

Are you thankful to the Lord for His grace, mercy, and love ? How do you renew your mind with His word?

2) **Taking:** “And **take** the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God**” Eph 6: 17,18

Are you saved and do you use the word of God to resist evil? Do you memorize and meditate on His word ?

3) **Casting:** “**Casting** all your care upon him; for he cares for you.” I Peter 5:7
Do you pray? Is it hard to tell God what you’re thinking and feeling?

4) **Depending:** “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather **glory** in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may **rest** upon me.” 2 Cor 12:9,10
Are you depending too much on you? How does strength “become perfect?”

5) **Bringing:** *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing** into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” 2 Cor 10:5*

Do you often look for and believe in the best for others? How do you “bring a thought captive?”

6) **Sanctifying:** *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”*
John 17:17 **Do you read the Bible? Do you have a reading plan?**

7) **Thinking:** *“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think about** such things.” Phil 4:8* **What are you feeding your mind?**

The major challenge of the church today is to be more bothered by the inconsistency with what we know and what we don't do. We know what to do, but we often just don't do it. “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22 God's expectations are different than ours.