

Principles for a Productive Life

Pt. 1: The Passion Principle

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 22nd

Biblical Principles act as a “moral compass” to guide us on the path of wisdom. Ps 16:11 *“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forever.”* (nā’im

{delights} nēṣ’ah: perpetual confidence) From nāṣah: the goal (Jer. 29:11)

“I know the thoughts (maḥshābâ’: purposes) that I think toward ..., thoughts of peace ... to give you an expected end.” (Tiqwâ’ aḥarît’: a cord and/or hope for future rewards)

- What “Principles” are you using to guide (and guard) your journey?
- What “goal” are you working toward?

Principle 1: The Passion Principle! Col. 3:16,17; 23,24

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly (Plousi’ōs: copiously) in all wisdom (Sophia: from saphes: clarity) teaching and admonishing one another... with Grace (charis: God’s influence) in your hearts. 17 ... And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name (On’oma: authority and character) of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him... 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, (ek psyche: from the soul, innermost being) as to the Lord, (kurios: supreme authority) and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward (Antapod’osis: requital) of the inheritance: (klēronomi’a: patrimony) for ye serve (douleu’ō) the Lord Christ.”

1. Spiritual Passion is difficult to maintain in a Spiritually Passive World, Because Satan is the “god” of this World. (Jn 12:31; 14:30; 2 Cor 4:4)

A. Jesus acknowledged this. Lk 13:24 *“Strive (agoniz’omai) to enter into the strait gate”*

Mt 7:13,14 *“wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait (stenos: cluttered with obstacles) is the gate, and narrow (thlibo: troubled) is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”* (Heuris’kō: perceive and/or obtain)

B. History (experience) confirms this.

- 1) Israel passed through several deserts before arriving in the Promised Land. (1 Cor 10:11-13)
- 2) Difficult Desert “Detours” have a way of “cooling” our spiritual passion!
 - a) They test our spiritual tenacity! (commitment) James 1:3
 - b) They tempt us to return to comfort of “Egypt”!?! (**Bondage!**) Numbers. 14:3-4

2. Symptoms of Spiritual Apathy (From Luke warm Laodicea) Rev. 3:17,18

A. Self Reliance. Vs 17 *“thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;”*

Pr. 3:5-7 *“trust in the LORD with all thine heart and lean not to thine own understanding... Be not wise in thine own eyes, fear the Lord...”* (also Pr. 16:18; 22:3-5)

B. Spiritual Blindness: 17 *“and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”*

- 1) There is none so blind as they that will not see! Jn 9:39-41

C. Disregard of Godly Counsel. Rev. 3:18 *“I counsel thee ... that thou mayest see.”*

(Ble’pō: be aware, beware, take heed) (See also Pr. 1:23-33)

3. Causes of Spiritual Apathy. (Spiritual appetites & interests diminish)

A. The Principle of Entropy (Entropy causes Apathy!)

- 1) In Rev. 1:12,13 Jesus is in the *“midst of the candlesticks”* (Churches)
- 2) In Rev. 2:4 *“you’ve left your first love...”* (aphi’ēmi: to neglect, lay aside, or Forsake)
- 3) By Rev. 3:20 Jesus is outside the church of Laodicea, seeking entrance!

B. The Principle of Gravity

1) The larger the object (accumulated Mass) the stronger the attraction or pull.

Ps 34:33 *"magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name"*

2) The closer you are to an object, the stronger the attraction or pull.

Mt 6:21 *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

C. The Principle of Appetite / Nutrition

1) Feeding on the junk food of worldly wisdom diminishes our spiritual appetite & energy.

Col 2:8-10 *"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him..."* (Plēroō: replete, filled, satisfied!)

D. The Principle of Poison. Sin in our lives weakens our spiritual appetite/energy.

1 Cor 11:30-31 *"For this cause many are weak (asthenēs: without strength or appetite) and sickly among you and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, (Diakrinō: separate thoroughly, withdraw from.) we should not be judged."* (krino: sentenced)

Conclusion:

All of these (Entropy, Gravity, Appetite, Poison) were at work:

- In ancient Israel. Num. 11:5 *"we remember... what we did eat in Egypt... But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes."* (also 14:3; 21:5)
- In Laodicea! Rev. 3:15-16 *"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm... (apathetic) I will spue thee out of my mouth."*
- And are at work In our lives today! 1 John 2:15-17; Phil. 3:17-19 *"many walk... that are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind {phroneo: value, regard} earthly things.)*
Titus 1:15-16 *"unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience (synei'dēsis: co-perception) is defiled. (miai'no: contaminated) They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, (bdelyk'tos: idolatrous) and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." (adokimos: worthless)*

**Worldly minded (carnal) people don't want to be saved from the Power of their Sin;
They only want to be saved from the Penalty (consequences) of their sin.**

Application. Rev 3:19-21

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous (Zēlo'ō: Passionate) therefore, and repent. (Metanoeō: reconsider) Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh (nika'ō: to subdue, conquer, prevail) will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

How can we overcome against such odds?

1Jn 4:4 *"Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

1 Jn 5:4 *"This is the victory that overcomes the world, Even our Faith!"*

Notice God's Invitation to the Lukewarm Laodiceans of every age: Vs 22

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

What's His Spirit trying to say to you?