

John 10:1 "I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber!":2 But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.:3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.:4 After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice.:5 They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice." :6 Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant,:7 so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.:8 All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them.:9 Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.:10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

REVIEW: FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

Philippians 3:12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,

1. THE ABILITY TO FORGET THE PAST DEPENDS ON HOW WELL YOU DESCRIBE THE FUTURE!

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR 2023? VISION IS NOT WHAT YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH, ITS WHO YOU WANT TO BE!

BEING COMES BEFORE DOING!

1 Timothy 6:6 Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth.:

WHAT ACTIONS ARE REQUIRED TO SUCCEED?

WHO DO YOU NEED TO HELP YOU COMPLETE IT?

2. YOUR ABILITY TO DESCRIBE FUTURE DEPENDS ON WHO YOU LISTEN TO!

WHO ARE THE VOICES IN YOUR EAR?

1 Kings 12:7 The older counselors replied, "If you are willing to be a servant to these people today and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your loyal subjects."

1 Kings 12:8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice of the older men and instead asked the opinion of the young men who had grown up with him and were now his advisers.

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING TO YOU?

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE FATHER'S VOICE?

John 10:26 But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep.

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

3. HOW WELL YOU HEAR GOD IS THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL LIFE!

JOHN 10:10...A RICH AND SATISFYING LIFE...ZOE!

John 10:10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

What will produce that quality of life? Jesus tells us in John 17:3. There He says, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (kjv). Eternal life comes from knowing God.

ALL MY FAILURES HAVE COME WHEN I WAS EITHER NOT MAKING THE WORD AND PRAYER A PRIORITY OR I GOT CAUGHT UP IN WHAT MAKES ME HAPPY... OR BOTH!

HOW DO I HEAR HIS VOICE?

THE MOST IMPORTANT MOVE YOU WILL MAKE IS TO LIMIT THE INPUTS INTO YOUR BRAIN!

HEARING GOD REQUIRES FOCUS!

NOTE: EMPTY SPACE CREATES A VACUUM.

Philippians 3:8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ:9 and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.10 I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death,

1. I MADE THE STUDY OF HIS WORD MY PRIORITY.

STUDY THE WORD LIKE ITS YOUR JOB!

2 Timothy 2:15 Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.:16 Avoid worthless, foolish talk that only leads to more godless behavior.

APPLY THE WORD TO YOUR LIFE!

Philippians 2:16 Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless.

2. I MADE WORSHIP AND PRAYER A WAY OF LIFE.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER MUST BE SCHEDULED FIRST.

Matthew 14:23 After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

WHEN YOU SEEK GOD, FAVOR SEEKS YOU!

Matthew 6:33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Matthew 6:34 "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

3. I DECIDED THAT OBEYING HIM WAS ALL THAT MATTERED.

OBEY WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW.

Philippians 2:12 Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.

Philippians 2:13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

SIMPLE OBEDIENCE PRODUCES MIRACLES.

2 Kings 5:10 But Elisha sent a messenger out to him with this message: "Go and wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored, and you will be healed of your leprosy."