

What Should Be Your Number One Aim in Life?

Part 10 & 11 2019



We have been progressively expanding the answer to this question – what is your greatest aim in life.

- Started with– Let love be your greatest aim...(1 Cor 14/1 TLB)
- Expanded to:
 - Let loving God, fearing Him, keeping His commandments and hating evil... be your greatest aim in life.
 - This statement becomes our predominant life value on which we are to base all of our life decisions.

We have been progressively expanding the answer to this question – what is your greatest aim in life.

- *Our life objective is to grow from being “Needy of God” to being “Needed by God”to add value to carrying out God’s Plan of Salvation.*
- *Not “What’s in it for me” but “What’s in it for God”.*
- *President Kennedy: “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country”.*

We have been progressively expanding the answer to this question – what is your greatest aim in life.

- *Most people prefer to be taken care by the government than to be free to take care of themselves. . . .it's becoming an entitlement mentality. . . .we feel entitled to free college, free health care, free sex without the sexual diseases, free from the consequences of financial mistakes, of poor eating habits, of violation of God's commandments, etc.*
- *Israelites preferred bondage in Egypt where they were taken care of instead of having the freedom to take care of themselves.*

Ex 16:2-3

2 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3 And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

*We are all challenged to grow from a
“Needy Mentality” to a “Needed Mentality”*

*“God, what do you need from me so that we, together, can
advance your Plan of Salvation?”*

*“What decisions do I need to make in my life so that I can
add more value to the purposes You have for mankind?”*

Your greatest aim in life....

“To love God, to fear Him, to keep His commandments, and to hate evil”.

The objective of all of our messages is to grow....

From being "Needy for God" to being "Needed by God"

From "what's in it for me" to "what's in it for God".

From "Love from God" to "Love for God"

“That Others May Live”

(Para-rescue Team of the USAF)

- *They are the military's most elite force, a highly trained group of men serving the Air Force and National Guard with a mandate to fly behind enemy lines during war and rescue downed pilots. They are pararescue jumpers, or PJs for short, the most radically fit, mentally tough men in the armed forces. During peacetime, PJs keep their skills sharp with daring civilian rescues, recovering victims from scorching deserts, treacherous mountaintops, or raging seas.....they are always on call, ready*

*“That Others May Live”
(Para-rescue Team of the USAF)*

- *to put their own lives on the line so “that others may live.” In an age seemingly devoid of heroes, these men are the real deal, a close-knit unit bound together by bravery and guts, selflessness and sacrifice, and the intense desire to both serve their country and live life on the edge....the indoctrination program is the toughest program in the military, more difficult than what the Navy SEALs or Army Special Ops go through. No one flunks out--it just gets harder and harder until most guys eliminate themselves.*

Their motto needs be our motto....

“These things we do that others may live”

We are also part of a rescue team....we are also on a saving mission....our desire needs to be to live, not primarily for ourselves, but to draw 1) others to God and 2) to His commandments....when we abandon this reason for our very existence, we cease being of much value to God.

Not “what’s in it for me” but “what’s in it for God” and “what’s in it for the world”.

Mission Statement

- *Mission*: “To make disciples who make disciples...and in the process, help change lives through the Power of God’s Applied Word to heal a broken-hurting world”.

Why?

“That others may live”

Vision Statement

- *Vision:* “To prepare a people for servant-leadership with Christ in Tomorrow’s New World”.

Why?

“That others may live”

Value Statement

- *Values:* “To represent the government of God on earth in all areas of life by demonstrating the following behaviors:
 - *Love God – Vertical Relationship (Worship & Discipleship)*
 - *Love One Another – Horizontal Relationship (Fellowship/Ministry)*
 - *Love the World – Outward Relationship (Evangelism)*

Why?

“That others may live”

*Challenge Me & Challenge Yourself
to live by these Mission/Vision/Value Statements*

- *Ps 90:10 The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,....*
- *Measure the years you have left on this earth:*
 - *I'm 72 years old....I'm living on borrowed time and if I live to eighty years, I have 8 years left on this earth to do what I have to do for God.*
 - *How about you?*
 - *No matter where you are, we don't have any time to waste.*

Even the world senses it is running out of time!

- 2 Tim 3:1-5 *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.*
- God is a “loving” God but He is also a God of “justice”the way this world is going will eventually lead to irreversible evil.

I fear we are running out of time!

- *2 Tim 4:1-5 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;*

I fear we are running out of time!

- *4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*
- *Why do what Paul is telling Timothy? “So that others may live” not for the purpose of saving our own skin.*

*So, challenge me and allow me to challenge you to be
zealous for God's Work!!!*

Why?

"That others may live"

Love Message – Part 10

Subject: “Loving with Your Words”

Love isn't always easy...relationships aren't always easy.

Let's learn some practical ways to love with our words.

Operating Scripture

- *James 3:2-12 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.*
 - *None of us is perfect. . . .we all say stupid things from time to time.*

Operating Scripture

- 3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.
- My mouth directs where I go... my mouth, my words, and my conversation are like a bit in a horse's mouth or a small rudder of a large ship....they can either guide me towards positive relationships or towards negative relationship....they can take my conversations where I don't want them to go.

Operating Scripture

- 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.
- My mouth and words can either enhance or damage my relationships...they are like fire that can easily get out of control and do a lot of harm.

Operating Scripture

- *7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.*

Operating Scripture

- *10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.*
 - *My mouth also displays who I am inside....who I am inside is revealed on the outside by my words....by what comes out of the spring...fresh water or bitter water.*
 - *Out of the same mouth come blessings/curses, good/bad water....we all need to be careful what comes out of our mouths.*

Advice from James

- 1) My mouth directs me where I go.
- 2) My mouth can destroy what I have.
- 3) My mouth displays who I really am.

Where Do Our Words Come From?

- *Matt 12:34-35 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*
- *Whatever is in my heart will eventually spill out in my words...you can try to bottle up your heart-thoughts, but eventually they spill out through your mouth in some way...some of our Presidential candidates are known for their gaffes...their unintended word blunders.*

Words Can Harm You

- *Mark 7:15-16 There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.*
- *Negatively spoken words can spill back into your heart and harm your reputation or add anger to an already angry heart causing more angry words to spill out.*
- *So we all need to choose our words carefully and think before we speak.*
- *“Be sure to put your brain in gear before allowing the mouth to run”.*

So how can we love people better with our words?

Some Practical Tips

Tip 1) Love people with honest words.

- *Jesus our Messiah is a good example of being able to speak honest words with love as the motive behind those honest words.*
 - *Matt 23:14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers.*
 - *Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*
 - *Matt 17:17-18 ...Jesus...said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?...18 ...Jesus rebuked the demon,....the child was cured...."*

Love was the motive behind those honest words of Jesus

- *Jesus was able to respond out of honesty not out of irritation...He was responding not out of uncontrolled anger but out of love....the motivation behind His righteous anger was love for His creation.*
- *Eph 4:11-16 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

Love was the motive behind those honest words of Jesus

● *13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ —*

● *Paul, like Jesus, love was the motivating factor behind speaking honestly....speaking the “truth” in love.*

Love was the motive behind those honest words of Jesus

● 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

● Love is the motivating factor throughout this Scripture....the aim is growth and becoming more Christ-like.

● In sharing our faith, it takes "truth" and it takes "love"....both are vital in properly sharing God's "Truth"....can't be one or the other...it must be both. Love must come first...then truth.

● Sometimes we "aim" with the "Truth" and forget the "love".

Truth/Honesty balanced with Love

- People need to see you're telling them God's "Truth" because you love them and care about them... not just because you want to win an argument and make them feel that they have lost an argument.
- But all love and no truth/no honesty is also not helpful in helping people grow in God's Word or in any other area of life.
- Prov 27:5 Open rebuke is better Than love carefully concealed.
- We may like flattery, but it's not helpful in becoming a better person...we need friends who have the courage and love to be honest with us.

Truth/Honesty balanced with Love

- 1 Cor 13:4-7 *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;*
- People who want to grow and want to better their lives will “rejoice in the truth...will rejoice in honesty” by someone who loves them enough to be honest with them.
- Be willing to give permission to someone you trust to be honest with you and to always tell you the truth in love.
- Also, be willing to accept constructive feedback from others.

Tip 1) Love people with honest words.

Today's Message – Part 11

Tip 2) Love people with careful words.

- *Because “words” are powerful, we need to be careful not to use wrong words...because they can hurt and destroy things that we value.*
- *Three areas to be careful with words:*
 - *1. Anger*
 - *2. Gossip*
 - *3. To many words*

Anger

- Eph 4:26-28 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.
- Everybody argues at one time or another: spouses argue, siblings argue, friends argue....we all experience anger when we argue.
- Sometimes we argue over the smallest things...even over things that don't really matter....things not worth arguing over.
- We are told not to "sweat the small things" but too often we do and we find ourselves arguing over the "smallest things" that really don't matter.

Negative ways we handle our anger...be careful with these.

- *We clam up and just wait for the right time to strike back. “I’ll eventually get even and win this battle”.*
- *We store up all these arguments, we let all these hurts pile up and then, when a little wrong is done to us, we explode and blast away at the person irritating you.*
- *God’s advice (no, God’s command) is “don’t go to bed angry”.*
- *If you go to bed angry, God says, you’re giving Satan a foothold in your relationship.*

Quotes

“Be careful of the words you say. Keep them soft and sweet. You never know from day to day, which ones you’ll have to eat.”

(Will Rogers)

“To keep your marriage brimming with love in a loving cup, whenever you are wrong, admit it; whenever you’re right, shut up.”

(Odgen Nash)

Gossip

- Prov 16:28 NIV A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.
- Matt 12:36-37 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.
37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
- National Enquirer: very popular at grocery checkout stands... why?....gossip sells....people like to hear/read gossip.
- Gossip makes us look better... that's why we do it.

Saying too much....talking a lot.

- Prov 21:23 *NLT Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut, and you will stay out of trouble.*
- Prov 17:28 *NIV Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.*
- Prov 10:19 *NIV When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.*
- Two ears and one mouth: *listen more than you talk....be a good-attentive listener....look at the person and actively listen.*

Tip 3) Love people with building words.

- *Eph 4:29 NIV Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*
- *Words can build or they can tear down...ask yourself...are my words building up?*
- *Build a marriage or tear down a marriage; build a relationship or tear down a relationship...all with the power of words.*
- *Think before we speak...are my words building up or tearing down.*

Homework

Choose one of these to work on this week.

- *I will use kinder words this week:*
 - *Prov 12:25 An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up. (kinder words transform worry to joy)*
- *I will use gentle words this week:*
 - *Prov 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (gentle words can break through anger)*
- *I will use pleasant/encouraging words this week.*
 - *Prov 16:21 The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction. (pleasant words encourage learning)*

Choose one of these to work on this week.

- *I will use more honest words this week;*
 - *Prov 24:6 For waging war, you need guidance, and for victory, many advisers. (honest words said with love can make us feel loved)*
- *I will use more wise words this week;*
 - *Prov 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (wise words can heal broken hearts)*

Words are powerful....use them carefully!!!

Why?

“So that others may live”