

Notes from Dr. Charles Stanley "30 Life Principles" for

16 Discipleship Lessons (By Mary Davis, March 2022, www.aprayernotebook.net/each1helps1/texts.html)

(<https://www.intouch.org/watch/series/life-principles-to-live-by>)

We can experience God's perfect design for our lives from the Word of God:

1. Relationship With God
 2. Surrender To God: Trust & Obey Him(Heb 10;35-36)
 3. Blessings From God
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Lesson 1: Salvation: Relationship Restored with God

Life Principle 1: Intimacy with God: His priority for our lives sets the impact of our lives Gen 1:26

1. We each have a deep need in our hearts to know we are loved. God designed us for fellowship with Him & then others. We cannot fully love one another until we ourselves experience His love. Rom 8:39.
 2. We experience His love when we willingly surrender to His call to be our Savior, Lord & Friend.
* Victory comes through our surrender to Him. Ps 34:10; Mat 6:33; Jn 15:5.
 3. God draws us to Himself so we can experience His love & forgiveness., He can give us His best blessings & we begin to have a positive impact on our world! The more we know & love Him & the more we seek a deeper relationship with him, the more effective our service will be. Ps 1:1-3. Why do we resist? self-pride, fear of what God will do or belief in Satan's lie to not trust God's Word.
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Lesson 2: Eternal Security

Life Principle 12: Peace with God is the Fruit of Oneness with God. Jn 17:3,20-21; Col 1:13-14.

1. We are secure in our salvation at the moment we put our faith in Jesus Christ. God has sent His Holy Spirit to live within us, guaranteeing our relationship with our Creator, for all eternity. Eph 1:13-14.
 2. Turn to Jesus Christ who holds all peace, comfort & security of God firmly in His control. Ps 4:8.
 3. God wants us to find courage, hope & strength in His Presence & His Word. Rom 5:1,2; Phil 4:6,7. The peace paid for on the cross brings us into oneness with God. We can accomplish many things -great & mighty-when we keep our focus on God: in Eternal Security: One with Him. Ps 57:1-3.
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Lesson 3: Submission to God's will in Baptism Mat 3:15

Life Principle 21: Obedience always brings Blessing. Lk 11:28.

In His Holiness, Jesus submitted Himself to John's baptism to provide a perfect example to us of how to live in righteousness & obedience to the Father.

1. Submission to the will of God occurs when we seek to develop a closer relationship with God.
 2. Baptism represents our love for Jesus Christ who saved us & our desire to submit our lives to Him in obedience to Him & to walk in His new life He has given us.
 3. When you choose to obey the Lord, He will bless you & reward you with peace & joy above all.
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Lesson 4: The Holy Spirit

Life Principle 22: To Walk in the Spirit is to obey the initial promptings of the Spirit. Acts 10:19.

1. The Holy Spirit knows God's plan & purpose for our lives: past, present & future.
 2. Trust the Holy Spirit as your daily guide always: Acts 11:12; 13:2; 16:6; Rom 8:14; Gal 5:18.
- We must stay yielded to the prompting of the Spirit: which may come as a stillness of our hearts with a word of conviction or assurance; an uneasiness in our spirits to warn us; a feeling of inner peace to encourage us; an eagerness to see what God will do; or a feeling of joy of being in God's will.

* Seek His guidance. Ask for it. Watch for it. Anticipate it. Receive it. Heb 11:6

3. God wants us to know what to do & when. His Holy Spirit has come in His all-knowing ability to impart to us what we need to know in order to live obedient & faithful lives unto Him.

Lesson 5: The Word of God

Life Principle 13: Listening to God is essential to Walking with God Psalm 81:8; Jer 33:3.

Life Principle 3: God's Word is an immovable anchor in times of storm. Num 23:19 (Daniel)

1. God wants us to know & enjoy His presence in a personal way that best expresses His sufficiency.
2. We should: a. Stand firm on God's Word as we depend on God & anchor our hearts to His word. b. Pray & pursue His lead. Follow Him. c. Trust Him to bring everything together according to His time.
3. We should allow the Holy Spirit to open our hearts for a deeper understanding of His Word so we could claim His promises & have a deeper understanding of His provision, love & care.

* Learning to listen to God through the reading of His Word is the most important thing you can do because there is no other way to enjoy the amazingly, wonderful, abundant life He offers.

Lesson 6: Prayer

Life Principle 8: Fight all your battles on your knees & you will win every time. 2Sam 15:31

1. God has given each of us a measure of faith to develop & gives us the ability to trust Him. Jm 4:7.
2. As we "submit ourselves" to Him, we stand firm in "faith" & resist the enemy by the power of God.
3. Then we see His awesome power, experience His vast love & learn from His wisdom & grow in faith.

Life Principle 17: We stand tallest & strongest on our knees. Dan 6:10-11

Life Principle 27: Prayer is Life's greatest time saver. 2Thes 3:1

1. As we worship God & grow spiritually He teaches us how to communicate with Him & listen for His still small voice.
 2. To Establish a Powerful Prayer Life:
 - a. Choose a definite time.
 - b. Select a place to be alone with Him.
 - c. Make a commitment to pray daily. Tell God your heart is open to Him & His will for you.
 - d. Keep a prayer journal of requests & answers.
 3. In trial, His presence will fill you with hope as He gives you strength & wisdom to face it with confidence not anxiety fear or frustration, Your time with God is the best investment you make every day.
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Lesson 7: The Direct Will of God

Life Principle 18: As Children of a sovereign God we are never victims of circumstances Hos 3:4-5

Life Principle 14: God acts on behalf of those who wait for Him. Isa 64:4.

1. When you know Christ as your Savior, God sees you as a saint - sometimes struggling, sometimes falling, but justified, redeemed, forgiven & reconciled. God sees a person full of His unconditional love, indwelt by His presence, sealed by the Holy Spirit, whose name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. He also sees all your potential - all the good you could accomplish for His Kingdom.

* God has set us on a path. He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, to guide us & encourage us.

2. We endure as we are waiting on God, trusting Him to direct our path & faithfully obeying Him.

3. We discover God's will and our relationship with Him grows closer.

* We receive supernatural energy & strength in faith & endurance. Isa 40:29-31; Gal 5:22-23.

* We win battles. How wonderful to see the Lord rescue us & bless us. Prov 20:22.

* We see the fulfillment of our faith. Isa 49:23; Eph 3:21; 1Pet 5:10-11.

* God can use all that happens to us as an opportunity for our blessing & His glory.

Life Principle 9: Trusting God means looking beyond what we can see to what God sees. 2Ki 6:17

Life Principle 5: God does not require us to understand His will, just obey it. Josh 3:8; Gen 6.

1. Our heavenly Father by His Holy Spirit will give the ability & strength to be faithful to what He asks.
 2. As David with Goliath, success was in his ability to trust & obey God with a humble heart before Him.
 3. Obedience is the 1 way you can become the person God wants you to be, do the work He wants you to do, bear the fruit He enables you to bear & receive the blessings He has prepared for you.
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Lesson 7(7part2): The Allowed will of God

Life Principle 20: Disappointments are inevitable: Discouragement is a Choice. Hab 3:17-18

Life Principle 26: Adversity is a bridge to a deeper Relationship with God. Phil 3:10

Life Principle 7 (29): The Dark Moments of our Life will last only so long as is necessary for God to accomplish His purpose in us. 1Sam 30:1-6; James 5:10; Ps 5:1-7.

1. God has designed adversity to become a turning point from which you take your greatest leaps forward in spiritual growth. Do you complain or thank God for His faithfulness in hard times?
 2. Turn to the Lord: "What do I need to learn from this?" Affirm your trust & commitment to God.
 - a. Have obedience to God with confidence.
 - b. Surrender of selfish feelings.
 - c. Listen to the Holy Spirit in prayer & in study of God's word to gain God's viewpoint.
 - d. Look to Jesus your light
 - e. Wait on Him.
 3. He is building godly, spiritual character into our lives to enable us to comfort others. 2Cor 1:3-7.
- * We become more like Christ to reflect the love of God to our world.
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Lesson 8: The Local Church (&)

Lesson 9: Other Christians in the Family of God

Life Principle 28: No Christian has ever been called to go alone in his walk of Faith Heb 10:24-25.

1. Jesus Christ is our great High Priest. He has provided the way for individuals to have personal access to God.

* We are the body of Christ & we are doing what comes naturally, what we will do for eternity: being together in His presence.

2. We are to "Holdfast without wavering," "consider one another in order to stir up love & good works," and meet regularly for worship, education, fellowship & testimony of God's work in us.
 3. Participation in a body of believers, the Church, safeguards our personal fellowship with God & encourages spiritual growth as God draws us to closer relationship with Himself.
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Lesson 10: Giving

Life Principle 23: You can never out-give God. 2Cor 9:8; 2Sam 7:11,16; Mk 9:41; Lk 18:28; 6:38.

1. While God invites our gifts & offerings, He will always give us far more than we could give Him.
 2. We should obey God's Word & cheerfully give the portion He has requested of us.
 3. God challenges us to give Him the privilege to prove Himself & what He has promised.
- Prov 3:9,10. He will bless us & the work of His kingdom.
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Lesson 11: Money and Possessions

Life Principle 11: God assumes full responsibility for our needs when we obey Him. Job 42:7-17.

Life Principle 6 You reap what you sow, more than you sow, & later than you sow. 2Cor 9:6.

1. Our God is able & eager to meet our needs. One of His greatest desires is for us to trust His

wisdom.

2. God wants to know that we are committed to living our lives for Him.

* We reap what we sow. We cannot sow disobedience and reap blessing. Gal 6:7; Mat 13:23; Hos 8:7.

3. When we are surrendered to Him, He sees our devotion & goes to work on our behalf.

* When God provides, it will be abundantly beyond all you imagined.

Life Principle 16: What you acquire outside of God's will will eventually turn to ashes Ezek 25:6-7

1. Our deepest longing should be to know God.

2. Augustine: "You made us for Yourself & our heart is restless until it rests in You." When we satisfy ourselves with God, we want less of what the world has to offer. We want to know God more intimately.

3. This process deepens our humility, our gratitude, our purpose, our reverence, and our desire changes from satisfying ourselves to serving God. Ps 16:11 . "In your presence is fullness of joy.."

Lesson 12: Resolving Sin's Problems

Life Principle 10: If necessary, God will move heaven & earth to show us His will 2Chron 20:12-17

Life Principle 2: Obey God and leave all the consequences to Him. Ex 19:5

1. God is committed to showing us how to follow His plan for our lives. Isa 30:19-21

When we begin to wander from that plan, God will take measures to protect us from harm: a. By an urge to stop & pray. b. By word of others. 1Sam 3:10. c. Unanswered prayer "No" d. Setbacks e. Unusual situations f. Defeat after victory g. Financial troubles. h. Sickness / affliction.

* No matter what method God uses to get our attention to focus back on Him, it is so we would understand our need for His grace & forgiveness, through the Lord Jesus, our Savior.

2. We must die to self so that Christ can live through us & we submit to His Spirit's wisdom & power.

3. Through salvation we receive the very life of God so we can relate to Him & bring Him glory.

Lesson 13: Liberty in Christ

Life Principle 19: Anything you hold too tightly you will lose. Amos 6:6-7

1. God wants to be your all-sufficient Lord, Savior & Friend. He knows you & his plan for you. God allows trials beyond all our resources so we will recognize that He is in control.

2. Is your confidence in something else than the Lord?

3. God loves you too much to allow you any thoughts of self-sufficiency.

Life Principle 15: Brokenness: God's Requirement for maximum usefulness. Jer 15:9.

1. God accepts us on the basis of what Christ has done on the cross.

2. Rely on Him and in brokenness we say, "All that I am & all that I have is God's." Prov 3:5-6

3. Brokenness deepens our perspective of His mercy & provision & our compassion for others grows.* Brokenness is a sign of God's love & activity in our life.

* God is committed to bringing us to a place of spiritual maturity, conforming us to the likeness of His Son Rom 8:29, so He can work through us to bring others to salvation and spiritual maturity. God wants us to rest on His wonderful provision & love & be prepared for future service 1Pet 5:10-11

Life Principle 24: To Live the Christian Life is to allow Jesus to live His life in/through us Gal 2:20

1. Many Christians today seem content to live what they think is an adequate Christian life of chores & rituals, but they do not enjoy the power, peace & joy that should come in abundant life Jesus promised.

* God desires to have a daily relationship with us where we experience His presence, glory, power, love & wisdom in a way that is unique to every person.

2. We are to trust Him for wisdom, courage & strength in all situations. Our relationship grows as we relate to God through Bible study, prayer, worship & fellowship with other believers. We learn about Him, love Him, live & walk in His ways.

3. The God who redeems us can teach us how to live for Him. The Savior we trust for eternity is capable of taking care of what burdens us; to shine through us brightly with His fruit of the Spirit, illuminating our talents & personality as He glorifies Himself so others can know Him & be saved.

Lesson 14: My Work

Life Principle 4: The Awareness of God's Presence energizes us in our work. Deut 20:1

1. The Holy Spirit is present equipping & energizing the Christian.
 2. View yourself as a Servant Jn 20:26-28 who works for the Lord Himself. Col 3:23
 3. We should do our best because we will be rewarded beyond measure in heaven.
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Lesson 15: The Lost World

Life Principle 25: God blesses us so that we might bless others. Eph 4:28.

1. God saved me because he loves me: When we acknowledge our sin & need for a Savior, He forgives us, grants us eternal life & gives us the gift of His Holy Spirit out of His immeasurable love & grace. The motivation in Jesus' life: Love. Jesus preached, taught, healed & performed miracles: to help others. Jesus poured out His life to help others 2Cor 8:9.

2. I am most like Jesus when I serve others.

* God calls us to serve as Christ did.

* Most Important Truth: Give your life to Him & allow Him to lead you every day as you walk by faith.

3. God's Purpose for me is to bring him Glory: God saved us to serve as examples to others of His love & mercy at work in/through us; God saved us that we might reflect His nature: compassion; God saved us to become His witnesses; as we allow His Holy Spirit to work through us to others. Then we become vessels of His love in action.

* We bring credit, honor & glory to Him.

* God loves us so we might love others.

* God blesses us so we might bless others.

* That's what the Christian life is all about.

1. Mat 9:36-38 We consider the compassion of Christ for people seeking the way to be right with God. "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted & were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Jesus said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray (you) therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest'".

2. Matt 4:19 Call of Jesus: "Follow Me" His command/permission; "I will make you" His construction; "Fishers of Men" His complete product. Mat 28:19-20 "Go."

3. Acts 1:8 "You shall receive power... you shall be witnesses unto Me" Matt 24:14 in action. "And this gospel of His kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Lesson 16: The Court or Judgment Seat of Christ

Life Principle 30: Eager anticipation of the Lord's Return keeps us living productively. Rev 22:12

1. 2Thes 3:5 "And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God & patient waiting for Christ."

2. Watch steadfast in the faith. Work diligently, win souls, telling of the love of God and atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ & what He has done in your life.

Wait peacefully by faith in Jesus Christ until the Lord's return.

3. 2 Cor 5:9-10 "Wherefore we make it our aim, that, whether present or absent, we may be well pleasing to Him: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every man may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad." Rev 22:12 "And Behold, I am coming quickly and My reward is with Me."