

Seeds of Life

A Fathers Words to His Children

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By Jerry Edmon

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Seeds of Life

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my children, Allison, Ashley, Ariel and their children. They are my whole focus in this project. I believe that this is the most important piece of work that I can leave for my children. Although material substance is important, wisdom is more desirable. Wisdom can be spent again and again. It is never depleted.

Although I hope others are blessed by these truths, every word was written with my children in mind. I did not intend to just come up with “cute” sayings, but rather truth that would help them make the decisions in life that they need to make.

This book is designed to bring need and truth together. Truth requires no revision and will apply to any generation. These are principles of life and success as they have been revealed to me. Meditate on them and they will give you the wisdom and guidance of a Father that loves you.

Special Thanks

I want to express my special appreciation to my dear friend Grady Grandstaff who inspired me with his love for truth. To Irvin and Gloria McCorkle who inspired me with their lives. To my wife Angie, who inspired me with her wisdom and to my three daughters, Allison, Ashley and Ariel, who inspired me with their trust.

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Ability

Ability can be very deceptive unless it is coupled with discipline. It will deceive you into putting off the preparation necessary to make you great; thinking your ability can pull it off at the last minute.

Ability can be outstripped by hunger. The prize will usually go to those who want it most.

You can't always control your ability, but you can control your conditioning.

Abortion

The abortion movement used a masterstroke of deceit by turning the focus from the murder of a child to the inconvenience of the mother. They called it "choice".

Almost all decisions for abortion are expressions of selfishness. It is the termination of another life because it inconveniences you.

I marvel at how men are shocked and grieved at the tragic death of a three month old baby, when only eight months earlier, they defended the murder of the same child. Hypocrisy knows no bounds.

Don't you consider it barbaric to abort a perfectly healthy infant? It seems like the thoughts and actions of a primitive race of people who for one reason or another kill their children and think nothing of it.

At conception the spark of life began its development. Life is the engine that empowers the fetus to continue its development and run its course until death.

Isn't it ironic that most of the liberal environmentalists would shut down the progress of society because of an endangered toad, and at the same time embrace abortion? Save a tree, kill a child. It just shows how out of balance the thinking of people can become.

Of course I believe that abortion should be allowed to save the life of the mother. But honestly, how often is that the case? Those who support abortion are so obstinate and hypocritical that they won't touch the math on this one. To them the issue of abortion has ceased to be an issue about the life of the mother or the life of the baby. It is a politically driven agenda that excludes the truth about how many actual cases there are where the life of the mother is endangered and persists in a crazed stride in the wrong direction. They don't care to count the numbers and they assume that no one else will count either.

The percentage of abortions for the life of the mother is so small that it is the low single digit. The other approximate 99+% are simply for the sake of convenience which includes bad timing, inability to take responsibility, age, marital status, financial standing, family influence, etc. As a result there are 1.37 million reported abortions each year. The slaughter continues without even so much as a wince from the left. These are hard numbers. Research shows that only 1-3% of all abortions are performed for the reasons of rape, incest, deformity or threat to the life of the mother.

While he was United States Surgeon General, Dr. C. Everett Koop stated publicly that in his thirty-eight years as a pediatric surgeon, *"he was never aware of a single situation in which a preborn child's life had to be taken in order to save the life of the mother"*. Dr. Koop said that the use of this argument to justify abortion in general was a "smoke screen."

Since 1967, the medical field has advanced considerably. As a result the danger of pregnancy to the mother has declined and in most cases disappeared all together. Yet even in the early days of legalized abortion, Dr. Alan Guttmacher of Planned Parenthood acknowledged, *"Today it is possible for almost any patient to be brought through pregnancy alive, unless she suffers from a fatal illness such as cancer or leukemia, and, if so, abortion would be unlikely to prolong, much less save, life."* Dr. Landrum Shettles said that less

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than 1 percent of all abortions are performed for reasons other than convenience.

What does this say about our elected officials who continue to push this agenda of lies and deceit? President Obama, while being interviewed by Rick Warren said that the issue of abortion is a complicated issue. No it isn't. 40,000,000 human babies have been murdered in the womb. The frightening thing isn't that our elected officials do not know, but rather that they are willing to close their eyes to genocide in their own house.

But the plot thickens. These numbers show us the results, but now let's look deeper at what is behind the madness. The motive for birth control at its foundation was the extermination of the undesirable.

May 5, 2009, Rev. Walter Hoya, an African American elder of the Progressive Missionary Baptist Church in south Berkeley said that the majority of abortions are black babies.

"African Americans, he pointed out, are the 'number one customers' of abortion clinics today. Although blacks account for only 14 % of the U.S. population, 37 % of all abortions in this country are performed on black women. With a live-birth rate lower than the mortality rate, Hoya said, At this rate, there will be no black Americans left by the year 2100." Walter Hoya continued, "Between 1882 and 1968, the Klan lynched 3,446 black folk. Abortion kills more than that in the African-American community in just three days." He said, "When I explain to the brothers that abortion kills more of us than heart disease, cancer, HIV/ AIDS, and violent crime, they begin to realize that this is the number-one issue facing the African-American community today. I'm not using terms like 'holocaust' and 'genocide' to get a response," he explained. "We're literally killing ourselves."

Unfortunately, there are organizations that have been set up to help expedite the extermination. Maybe this better describes the plan behind Planned Parenthood. I would suggest that you do a bit more research into organizations like Planned Parenthood and more specifically Margaret Sanger and her ideas for genocide in the black community. Here is my question, as a human being, how can we embrace any political party or organization who is so enthusiastic in its determination to make any race and heritage extinct?

The bottom line of abortion is political and financial profit, as well as the destruction of the family unit. The feminist movement has become the guardians of this crime against humanity.

This is an excerpt from my personal diary during my first trip to the land of Israel.

“This was a very difficult day for me. We stopped at the holocaust museum. It was one of the most emotional days that I can remember. I was overwhelmed with sadness as I came face to face with the coldness of the Holocaust.

The concentration camps were not just places to put people to death. They were industries of death. They were devising new ways to see how someone dies. With total disregard for life they experimented on children, men, pregnant women, young and old, just to see how fast or slow they could die under different situations.

Among the six million people who were slaughtered, one million, five hundred thousand were children. I wept. In light of that, I see Hitler and his regime as he really was, a truly depraved man. He was a man who committed high treason against humanity. I do not have the vocabulary to express my anger and contempt about what happened to these poor people.

As I thought of this, my mind went to all of the abortions that take place each year. In both cases, there was no sense of regard for life. Life was not precious to them. I am amazed to hear people argue over when life begins, not for the sake of science, but rather for the sake of elimination and convenience.

I would say that the Holocaust is more severe in the sense that each of the people who were slaughtered already had a name and identity. But when it is all considered, I believe that the Nazi's and the abortionist are alike in that they have no regard for life. I saw pictures taken by Nazi photographers who would have the soldier's shoot at close range women and children simply to photograph their expression at the moment of death. Their doctors would inject a bubble of air into a pregnant woman to see if she or the child would be affected first and which one would die first.

I could not continue through the entire museum tour. I feel sick...I am so angry.”

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On the issue of abortion, the mother is also victimized. She seldom has the comprehension of the long-term, mental and emotional consequences of her actions, and the government chooses to ignore their responsibility by guarding her ignorance.

I heard an abortionist refer to it as “the birth of a baby or the termination of the pregnancy”. Isn’t it interesting that they can’t say it? They can’t say, “The death of a baby”.

Abuse

Abusers survey the family for the weakest one who won’t hit back, even if it is the dog.

Abuse is the misuse or distortion of authority.

The only time you will ever hurt a child in discipline is when you do it for your benefit instead of theirs. Never lay your hand on your child when you are angry. Always cool down and think it through first. Make it a time of discipline, learning, instruction, and development for them. If your anger comes into play during that discipline, the child becomes nothing more than an outlet for your emotions.

Absence

Absence is the greatest enemy of negotiation and the mending of broken walls.

Sometimes absence makes people and things seem greater than they are.

Sometimes the tragedy of life isn’t just bad things. It is also the absence of right things.

Abundance

There are those who have the appearance of abundance, and yet are empty and there are those who might appear empty who are full. Don't let this illusion deceive you into trying to keep up with the Joneses.

There is no true fullness or completeness apart from the will and purpose of God for your life.

Abundance in the hand does not bring fullness to the heart. It never has; it never will. It is sweet to the mouth, but empty to the stomach. It's the heart of man that makes him full.

Accomplishment

It is not what we do in life that is important to God. It is what we become.

The idea of accomplishment by itself is one of the great illusions in life. It leaves the impression that to achieve and conquer brings you to a Utopia of completeness and fulfillment. This deception comes when you are drawn into measuring your life by material standards. True accomplishments are measured in people you touch and not in the possessions you gather. Some of the most wretched people I have ever known have gathered an abundance of material possessions. That is certainly not a declaration of their worth. Accomplishment and purpose is not the same thing.

Accountability

The strength of continuing is in accountability.

If you want to safeguard your life, find a mentor or spiritual father and become accountable to them.

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Accusation

See Blame

Those who cry the loudest and longest with accusation will usually have something to hide.

It seems that we spend a lot more time trying to fix the blame rather than the problem.

Achievement

It doesn't require that much additional effort to be considered outstanding.

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time! You must start where you are, bite off what you can chew, and don't stop because the task seems overwhelming.

Every great achievement was once thought to be impossible by someone.

Behind every great achievement are dreams, hopes, determination, sweat and a work ethic.

There is no purpose in the eagle but to soar. Without it the young eagle could never know the privilege of its heritage.

Make the decision now that you will be ashamed to leave this world unless you have achieved something for your fellow man.

To start thinking like them is the first step to playing like them.

Acknowledgement

It doesn't require that much additional effort or time to acknowledge the good in people around you.

Young men need an acknowledgement of manhood from their father. They need a father or a father figure to look at them and say, "*You are now a man!*" Without that, he will spend his whole life trying to fill that void. Most of the time, the smoking, the piercing, or whatever he does that you might disapprove of, is a cry for acknowledgement, not approval. He is saying, "Even if you don't approve, you will acknowledge me." It is a cry for strength and impartation. Love is not acknowledgement. Approval is not acknowledgement. He needs to hear the words that tell him that he is a man. When the Army gets a boy, he more easily transitions into manhood because they acknowledge him as a man and that empowers him to find his place. Without the acknowledgement of manhood, he is never fully equipped to become a man. He will spend his young life in disorder and lawlessness trying to prove his manhood and independence.

Action

Without action, no dream becomes a reality. With each goal always try to write at least 10 action steps that would be required to accomplish those goals.

Faith is only released as you step toward what you desire.

Insight is not only incomplete; it is almost worthless unless it is translated into action.

Adaptability

Survival is summed up in adaptability. Adaptability brings compatibility and unity. Unity makes progress.

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Adaptability is the thread that ties everything together.

Administration

See Leadership

You cannot successfully grow if you only have the ability to feed yourself alone. You must learn the power of administration. If you cannot administrate your affairs yourself, then by all means get someone else to help you. It does not matter how great your abilities are; you cannot grow without it.

Admiration

See Leadership

Study the steps of great men, for greatness always leaves its footprints.

Don't hold the person that you admire most to his or her reputation. No one is that good. It is very difficult for them to live up to the standard that our imagery produces. In their humanity they will fall short and disappoint you somewhere. Don't set yourself up for disappointment. Simply learn to appreciate their contribution with no strings attached.

Adoption

Although I see adoption as a wonderful thing, I believe that the adoption system in the United States is deeply flawed. Anyone who gets close to their web is about to lose a lot of time and money. They create an emotional storm for anyone who gets close to them. They are in serious need of overhaul. Common sense and uncluttered management seems to be the greatest missing components.

Always keep your home open to new life, even if it is a pet.

Adversity

See Enemies

Never quit in the face of adversity.

Anytime you turn to go upstream you get hit in the face with all of the trash that is floating downstream. That sums up all adversity. To yield to its current is to go the way of failure and death.

You don't have to respond to every voice that criticizes or challenges you. Why should you cast something that is holy or precious before swine? The pursuit of the swine is neither right nor truth. It is simply to devour. Don't soil your time with them.

Silence can't be misquoted. Try never to be forced into giving your opinion unless it is worth your time, effort, and reputation.

Adversaries are in the other party. Enemies are in your own party.

Advice

See Counsel, Grief, Debate

Never ask a car salesman if you need a new car.

Hasty counsel is usually influenced by the emotions of the moment. Before you open your mouth to instruct your friend, take time to think it through.

Consider the motives of those who ask you for advice. What you say could be used as leverage, and in the end you will be embarrassed.

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Alcohol

Even the most distinguished of men become an embarrassment when they are drunk.

A drunken fool is just that. He reveals all his heart, and displays his shame for all to see. I cannot think of one single thing that can destroy a society like alcohol.

Alcohol strips away all honor and without mercy exposes your nakedness.

Social drinking is not necessary. Don't open that door.

I agree that you have the right to drink if you want to, but sometimes we lay aside our rights, not because we have to, but because it is the right and responsible thing to do.

Why would you take the risk of drinking alcohol? Why would you take something to yourself that is destructive to mankind when there are so many alternatives? That seems to be the height of selfishness. I cannot think of a single thing that has been more destructive to the potential of our country, our families and us as individuals.

Ambition

Don't let unbridled ambition exceed the will of God for your life, or you will experience a lot of emptiness. Don't let anyone convince you that you are greater than the wall that you are on and thereby pull you away from what you are called to be.

A hungry man will brave the storm.

America

See Liberty, Government

America must be an example of democracy, a leader of truth and a lover of liberty.

It frustrates me to have to push #1 for English. However, the American spirit comes with a willingness to embrace diversity and pushes us to make room for new social and economical opportunities that come in the form of “push #1 for English”.

American people have become isolationist at heart. I don't see this as a step forward for society. The only way to stop being afraid of each other is to get to know one another.

Ancestry

See Heritage

We must watch the footsteps and decisions of our ancestors, for they offer the lessons that we are to learn. If we fail to learn the lessons of history that our ancestors have given, then we are doomed to repeat their mistakes.

A Native American proverb says, “We don't inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” This has made me very aware of my use of the environment.

Angels

Angels are a very intricate part of our daily life. They are waiting for you to say something that they can respond to.

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Anger

See Emotions, Arguments

Anger is the emotion that empowers us to change the things that are out of order. It is the righteous and godly response to anything that is wrong or destructive. There is nothing wrong with anger. *Ephesians 4:26* says, “Be angry and do not sin, and don’t let the sun go down upon your wrath.” I am not speaking of uncontrolled or misdirected anger. Most anger is misdirected: “I am angry because”...

“They are making me late for work”

“My spouse is divorcing me”

“I was abused as a child”

“I was passed over for promotion”

“I had an unexplained tragedy”

“I’m facing threatening sickness or financial ruin”

“My life is out of control”

Although these may seem to be valid reasons, anger is only affective if it is put into action. Most anger is allowed to live beyond the life of the event. As a result, frustration, strife and unforgiveness come into play. But anger in its proper place is a “*breakthrough*” emotion. Like adrenalin it empowers you to break through barriers. It empowers you to break through strongholds. The result of righteous anger is a forceful correction of that which is out of order and destructive to life.

He who ties you to his anger controls you.

Do not associate with men who are given to anger. Avoid them, for they are in contention with the balance of life.

Be someone who is easy to appease and never let anger find a home in you.

It is easier to redirect a force than to stop it.

To be angry without a cause is the product of an undisciplined and uncontrolled spirit.

When talking to the press, never, never, never lose your cool. I don't care if you are 100% justified; you always look very bad.

Sometimes the person with whom you are angry is nothing more than a vent for stored anger and frustration. They just happen to be the convenient scapegoat who becomes your outlet. Remember that before you become too harsh on your friend.

If you must resort to violence, then you have already failed.

If you feel you are too angry and want to keep it in check, delay is the best remedy.

Anticipation

Our anticipation often fools us as to the worth of a thing.

Anticipation is the spice that keeps us reaching beyond ourselves.

Apathy

I once heard that all that it takes for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing.

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Apology

See Yielding

Never try to force anyone to apologize, for true repentance come from the heart. However, when someone does apologize, always be prepared to receive it even if it is years later.

Never be so full of pride that you cannot say “I am sorry” when you are wrong. It is a sign of strength and humility.

Appearance

Your appearance speaks long before you do. Make sure it is saying what you want it to say.

Make a point to know the occasion and dress properly for it. If you don't know and cannot find out, it is usually better to overdress than under dress. If you host a party or meeting of some kind, try to let your guests know in advance to what extent it is formal or casual.

Appeasement

Appeasement only makes the aggressor more aggressive.

Appointment

See Business

For every need, there is someone appointed to meet that need. God has divine appointments for you every day.

Always make and keep your appointments in a professional manner, no matter with whom you are dealing.

Appreciation

To be appreciated is among one of the greatest needs of mankind.

Congratulations are always appropriate.

Approval

I've seen people spend their whole life seeking the approval of those who were either too shallow or insecure to give it. If you have to buy approval, then you are dealing with someone without the insight to deserve you. The time you spend on them is wasted.

People want the approval of those with whom they come in contact. They want true recognition of their worth. They don't want to listen to cheap insincere flattery, but they need and crave sincere appreciation. Go out of your way for them, and you will find them returning again and again. They return not because of your surroundings, but because of you.

There is no perfume like winning.

When mankind lost their position and approval with God, they went to the next best thing. They went to man who was created in the image of God to get his acknowledgement and approval. It seems that everything they do is to that end.

Arguments

See Debate, Arguments

Every disagreement must have a predetermined conclusion. Otherwise it will only end in an argument. There is nothing wrong with a disagreement. It is okay to have a difference of opinion. Allow each other that privilege.

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The babbling fool loves his answers more than the truth.

Every brick wall was put up one brick at a time. Don't let your arguments or disagreements become just "one more brick."

A quarrel can reach deep into the soul of man, and he that doesn't leave room for reconciliation destroys his future.

I once heard it said, "Beware of the sound of one hand applauding." Remember that there is more than one side to the story.

Sticks and stones may break our bones, but words will break our hearts. Don't be foolish enough to believe that the words that you speak will not leave lasting scars.

When ones logic falters, they tend to demonize those with whom they disagree.

Arrogance

If a person becomes arrogant, he also becomes blind. This is also true of anger.

Arrogance is a long road with no road signs. You go a long way not realizing how far you have come and how much you have changed. The same is true for pride.

Associates

Associates will help you multiply your abilities.

Make sure that the baggage that your friends carry is a blessing and not a curse. Their spirit is contagious, and their baggage can become your baggage.

Attire

Loud attire is usually a desperate cry from within.

Always dress properly on and off the job. You never know whom you might meet, and your clothes tell a lot about you.

Attitude

Attitude is a choice.

The secret of survival is attitude.

Sometimes it seems that you are the bug and sometimes it seems you are the windshield. You can't always choose your circumstances. You can choose your attitude. You can live by, *"it's a good day, so I am happy"*, or, *"it is a bad day, I am sad."* Engage each situation that you encounter to release the power that is within you. Every day is a good day because the power of God is at work within you.

Attraction

The best way to attract someone is to become the kind of person that would attract them. However, in that process, don't lose yourself.

Authority

I don't trust people who need a title.

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There is no authority without responsibility. Don't hand out titles without the authority to use that title.

The responsibility of a supervisor is to keep his team focused.

Understand the difference between right and power.

Always respect the office of one in authority. At times you may disagree with the person in that office, but always maintain respect for the office.

Awareness

The only way that you can enjoy this life in its fullness is to understand what it means to live in the moment. Can you absorb the moment? The past and the future do not exist, only the moment that you now realize.

The goal of my writing is not just to have a book of abstract thought, but rather to place ethics and politics on a proper foundation.

The awareness of the world of the spirit is continually close to me. It seems that I can see into two worlds. I see or sense life on this plane as temporary and almost prop like. It is increasingly evident how unreal that this one-dimensional world really is by comparison to what I see. This whole setup is really quite primitive.

The eye to enlighten our path, yes, eyes that are dark and see only in a limited way. Limbs to hinge and give simple mobility. Distinguishing grunts for the purpose of communication. We take the material from the ground we walk on, then shape it into a useful tool or weapon, devising new ways to warm and make us comfortable. Celebrating new ways that we can make the weed of the ground tastier. Running around on the exterior crust of this planet not realizing that with each step and deed we are measuring our stewardship, and that is all. It is almost comical. We scrape the dust off of the top of the ground and melt it into a metal form to propel or entertain us, then beat our chest over our wisdom as though we were the source of what we see. In the midst of this earthly

experience, I sense something that is more real, more fulfilling. A realm, a place we really belong. It is almost tangible to me. It feels like it is just beyond the veil, just enough that you have difficulty describing it. But its life flows through me and I know that it is more real than I can describe. It has such depth and dimension. You can taste what you hear. It is an experience of perfect completeness.

When will my eyes be opened and my understanding complete? When will the tare in the fabric of life and death be revealed to me? When I see it, it will be familiar and it will bring change.

B

Bandwagon

Bankruptcy

Beauty

Begging

Belief

Bible

Blame

Boastfulness

Books

Borrowing

Bravery

Budgeting

Business

Bandwagon

Always keep the door to your bandwagon open, for some people are called to get on and support that which is already in motion. You need them for the long haul.

Bankruptcy

See Money, Stewardship

Although I have never filed bankruptcy, I see it as a good, necessary tool to society and the economy. In the process of creating wealth, you can encounter a number of unexpected things, some you cause, and by some you are victimized. In such an event, you can be saddled with debt that is impossible to recover from. You could spend the rest of your life in a vacuum of debt, totally losing your edge in life. In this event, the creditor has still lost and you as a debtor can never get back on your feet. In that sense, bankruptcy is a godly act given by the government to provide a clean slate to encourage you to get up and try again. In the end, Bankruptcy is good for the economy. But remember, as with any good thing, if you abuse it, it will be destructive to your life.

I do not suggest that bankruptcy is a good thing in the sense that it should happen to you. God forbid that your stewardship and responsibilities should fall into such disarray that you cannot recover. If you will simply be diligent and observe the future before you get there, you most likely will never fall into the place that you would need to file.

There is a phrase that is usually said to people who file bankruptcy. “See you again in seven years”.

Beauty

In the eyes of a child are the wonders of life and the aged see its beauty.

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Seeing beauty and value in others will cause others to see beauty and virtue in you.

It seems that outward personal beauty is the greatest form of introduction, but once the mouth is opened, inward beauty must sustain you.

Begging

Even though you risk being taken advantage of by the deception of someone you might see begging, always make provision to give a little of your increase to those who would ask you for help. God will reward you for it.

If you are not careful you will become cynical about anyone you see who is begging, and in the end you will miss the opportunity to help those who are really in need.

Belief

Never give up on miracles.

Always be willing to believe the best about your friend, even when it looks like they don't deserve it.

As you grow, you have to be willing to discard some of the things that you have believed.

Bible

See God, Christianity, Writing

The bible is not a story of man and his exploits. His weakness and failure is the same from generation to generation. Rather it is a story about God and His faithfulness, His deliverance and His love.

Make the decision to feed your spirit as much as you feed your flesh. For just as the lack of natural nutrition makes the body weak, so does the lack of prayer and the Word of God make the spirit weak. In this matter there is no top to the spiritual strength that you can attain nor is there a bottom to the spiritual weakness to which you can drop.

You don't measure the Word of God by your experiences. The Word is truth. It is the standard by which we measure all experiences.

The Bible is the menu, but Jesus is the meal.

Search the Word for its essence and you will find the love of God and the love for your neighbor.

Give yourself, heart and soul, to the Word of God.

He who is immersed in the Word of God rises above all of the works of the flesh and desire.

The laws of God are constant and remain consistent in their application.

The bible is the only book that is alive. The Word of God was written when holy men of old were moved on by the Holy Ghost. Under inspiration they would write as the anointing rested upon them. As they wrote, God would breathe through them and go into the words they were writing. As I read those words, that same anointing rises up in me. Oh the ecstasy of experiencing the anointing that was on David as he prophesied of the coming Messiah, or Moses as he stood in the presence of Jehovah or Daniel as he received a glimpse of the end. It's alive and quickening to my spirit. That is called faith.

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Blame

See Accusation

Blame is easy. That's the problem. It is easier to blame someone else than to deal with your own heart. But the blame mentality will produce a crutch that you will carry to your grave. Generally, people who spend a lot of time blaming others cease to bear fruit in any area. They avoid accountability. They are the first to whine under pressure, the first to complain, and the first to go to court. They are lazy and undependable. It is a poverty mentality that can corrupt and destroy a whole culture. It depletes self-reliance and self-confidence. By all means, take responsibility for your actions, and you will gain the respect worthy of the commitment.

Boastfulness

Deeds are silent with a man of honor.

The poor who complain and the rich who boast are both caught in a snare.

At man's best state, he is naive. Don't boast in yourself. Boast in the Lord.

Watch the boastful for he is unworthy of the crutch he has made.

Books

Books are a treasure, and the one who reads them has the advantage in life.

Words that are written cannot be unwritten. Though you repent, it has been written. Carefully weigh your words before you pen them.

There are those who can't read, and those who simply don't. Both are illiterate.

What separates the Bible from all other books is that the Bible is a living book.

Don't ask to borrow books from your friend. If you are interested, then ask him to write down the name of the author and publisher. If your friend does loan one to you, then return it promptly and in good shape.

Books make us heirs to the heritage and beauty of other ages and experiences.

Borrowing

There are two kinds of people in the world, borrowers and lenders. They seldom change roles, for the borrower is one at heart and so is the lender.

If for some reason you do have to borrow something, return it promptly in good condition. If you borrow a car for any extended use, then fill it with gas and wash it before you return it.

Bravery

I wonder, is bravery and desperation not the same thing?

Budgeting

To live beneath your means is to preserve your days.

To get up an hour earlier each day would add an additional two weeks to your year.

Seeds of Life

Business

See Stewardship, Leadership

Even to walk down the hall with a man who is your senior in the business world is a statement of honor and authority. Never underestimate the power of relationships.

Never be fearful to employ someone smarter than yourself.

Hire for attitude, train for skill.

Never discuss your salary with someone with whom you work. They will either get jealous of you, or you will be jealous of them, or you will both feed off of each other's dissatisfaction. In the end your job will become cumbersome and short-lived.

There are three components to being successful in business.

Don't be afraid to approach and deal with the public.

Have a good work ethic.

Develop administrative skills.

Get all of your agreements, estimates, and contracts in writing and save them in a file.

The man who knows how will always work for the man who knows why.

The legs feed the wolf

Find something you love to do and figure out how to get paid for it.

If a company judges its success by dollars alone, they will eventually compromise the quality and credibility of their product. Profit is much broader than the dollar. From time to time you have to sacrifice dollars to gain loyalty, but you have still profited. Let service be your purpose and your profit will be at every level.

C

Calmness	Conflict
Capacity	Conformity
Caution	Confrontation
Change	Controversy
Character	Contracts
Charity	Conscience
Chastening	Conspiracy
Cheating	Contentment
Cheerfulness	Control
Children	Cooperation
Choices	Core Values
Christianity	Counsel
Christmas	Courage
Common Sense	Courtesy
Communication	Cowardice
Companionship	Creativity
Comparison	Credit
Competition	Creditor
Complaining	Crime and Punishment
Compliments	Criticism
Compromise	Cruelty
Conduct	Curiosity
Confession	Customs

Confidence
Confidentiality

Cynicism

Seeds of Life

Calmness

See Peace, Quietness

God gave us the ability to hum to warm our hearts and calm our nerves.

Capacity

Your capacity is enlarged through mediation and experience.

Solomon prayed for wisdom, understanding and an enlarged heart.

The sum of human capacity is found in thought, word, and deed.

Caution

Just think. It's as simple as that. Be aware of where you are going and who is around you. Don't take risks that would jeopardize your safety. The only reason you would take a risk is because that you didn't plan ahead enough to secure your situation before you get there. Think your situation through. It will usually provide safety and a step out of harm's way.

Change

See Flexibility

Change is a permanent fixture in the makeup of life. It is there by design. It is intended to keep you moving and growing to your full potential. Those who don't receive this quickly fall behind in life. You have to learn how to manage change. How you respond to it determines your position in life. Criticism is the wrong response to the need. Always remember that you grow into change.

When looking at change, you should not always ask, "what should I do", rather, "What will I regret not doing?" Sometimes logic will cheat you out of a lot of wonderful things in life.

You never move to the next level until you are willing to change.

Change is a door that can only be opened from the inside.

Always leave your life open for an amendment as you grow.

Sudden changes undermine your foundation, but the gradual turn of a thing allows you to preserve your ship. Think it through before you commit to any changes. Insulate yourself and the people around you first. Change disturbs the atmosphere and causes unrest and sometimes discomfort.

If you don't like what you are getting in life, change what you are doing.

Don't be afraid of change. It can be a wonderful doorway to blessing.

People usually won't change unless their misery exceeds their fear.

Belief and strategy are the keys to real change.

He becomes a fossil who refuses to change.

Work at making changes without making enemies. It isn't always necessary to rush your plan. Sometimes a rushed plan lacks depth and fails to last for the long haul.

The ones who fight against reasonable changes are usually the ones who figure it will require some extra commitment from them.

Stagnation belongs to those who refuse to change.

Seeds of Life

The great alterations of life are found in those with the ability to discern the time to change and yet retain honor for all concerned.

Small changes soon produce great results.

The sign of those who are not prepared for growth is that they will not be flexible.

If you hate what you are doing, you need to check and see if that is what you are called to do. Your pursuits cannot be fulfilled if your plans are wrong.

We believe in the blood by faith, and believe in righteousness by faith, but have never yielded to the process of transformation.

You grow into change. Build a framework around what you want to see happen and let your life or business grow into that framework.

Character

See Integrity

Watch a man's idle time and you will see what he is.

So often we rely on personality to open the doors, but fail to have the character to keep them open.

The first order of life is to obtain character.

Character follows you wherever you go, so does a lack of it.

Character and accountability result in longevity.

Learn the substance of life and not just the ceremonies of it.

A man's anger reveals his character, so does the countenance of his wife's face.

Following through on your commitment when the excitement is gone is a sign of character.

A man's character instinctively follows the tendencies and tradition that his upbringing gives him.

There is a consistency between character and conduct. You do what you do because you are what you are.

Character is defined by what you do when no one is looking.

A man's response to praise is a test of his character.

Charity

Love people until they love you.

Love is the fullest expression of God's nature that there is. Love is the motivation for my actions and decisions. When I am rooted and grounded in love my capacity for experience is unlimited. The expressions of love are seen in 1st Corinthians 13.

Chastening

Discipline is the part of our life when we experience the resistance of God to turn us away from something. This is the chastening of the

Seeds of Life

Lord. We resist our children in certain areas to train them. Many times God will resist us in a certain area to reveal what we don't know is there.

Cheating

A person who cheats is fearful and insecure. It is the same spirit you find in the man who steals. They don't have the confidence in their own ability and therefore cannot compete without dishonesty. Cheating is a loser's mentality. It will certainly lead to failure. You must make the decision not to open the door to it.

Cheerfulness

One of the greatest gifts that you can give to your environment, whether it is at work, home, church or school is a smile and a cheerful disposition. It lifts the spirit of everyone with whom you come in contact. What a nice thing to give.

Children

See Family

I believe that your children usually turn out just like you. They get out of control because you use the same discipline on them that you use on yourself.

Children desperately need to know three things: who is in control, what is expected of them, and who is going to enforce the rules.

Cherish each moment with your children and write each event in your heart, for all too soon your children are grown and all you have left are memories.

My children are arrows in my quiver. All their early life is preparation, polishing their shaft and sharpening their edge, making a deposit in their

life to shape and mold them. At the appointed time, I will draw back the bow and explode them into the world. They will mirror all of the principles and values in which I believe. The entire preparation of an arrow is to be released. I am preparing them for that day.

As the twig is bent, the tree will grow, and through loving discipline and correction, the nature of a child is developed. This is not always easy. It involves confrontation and conflict, but the end result is honor.

If you do not learn to say “no” to your children, you will affect their ability to delay gratification.

Letting your children have anything that they want without learning its value will build unrealistic expectations about life.

If your child doesn’t understand self sacrifice, he will follow self indulgence. This is usually in motion by the ages of four or five.

You don’t spoil your children by giving them more than they deserve. God has certainly given us more than we deserve. You spoil them by giving it to them without the understanding of what it cost.

Giving a child only love without acknowledgement, will create dependence.

Some people miss the beauty of what their children are by trying to make them something that they are not.

A child left to himself will bring shame. Discipline is the nutrition he needs to grow.

Seeds of Life

Let there always be small hand and nose prints on our front glass door, for all of the blessings of life are summed up in this.

Children become what they see first, and what they hear second.

As I look at my children's early years, I find that the days are long but the years are short. I do not know where I first heard that statement, but as I grow older, I find it to be more and more true. For this I am sad.

I believe that putting a child on medication because he wiggles in his chair is criminal.

To have children is the single greatest goal that a man and woman can achieve together. It crystallizes the priorities of marriage and life together.

One of the greatest sights for children to see is their parents holding hands.

There is no age as wonderful as when your child is two. Don't miss it.

The wonders and treasures of life are found through the eyes of a child.

Choices

See Decisions, Debate

God has a single destination for your life. Your choices determine the route you take to get there.

In spite of the high cost of living, I keep choosing life over the alternative.

For the most part, you are where you are in life because of the choices you have made.

We can choose which path we take but we don't have infinite choice on the consequences that the path holds.

Christianity

See God, Bible

Keep worship, politics, and business separate. Self-serving motives will cause your worship to spoil.

One thing that separated Jesus from all self-proclaimed Messiahs and Lords is that He said, "Come to me," not "come to my teaching or philosophy". All others such as Buddhism and Hinduism call you to their ideas and teachings. Jesus calls you to Himself personally.

Christianity ultimately stands or falls on the resurrection, and the resurrection of Jesus can only be addressed by faith.

Christmas

Don't ever stop believing in Santa Claus. Christmas will only be as special as you make it.

When sending out Christmas cards, it is very impersonal and mechanical to send a card with your name stamped or printed with a machine. Take an extra moment and personally sign it. It is much more meaningful to the person who receives it.

When Jesus was born, we had boots on the ground.

Seeds of Life

Common sense

When the lack of common sense obtains authority, you find legalism.

Common sense is the greatest missing ingredient in the political field.

Communication

Communication is power. Nothing limits you more than the inability to communicate.

To truly communicate with someone, you have to understand without prejudice what they think and what their convictions are.

Trust is essential for all successful communication.

Learn the value and art of yielding in the times of communication and negotiation.

Be cautious about the manner in which you tell the truth. Examine your motives, for a wounded heart is not easily mended.

Eye contact with one person should not be more than three to five seconds at a time, yet always look the person in the eye. Avoid darting your eyes. It makes you look dishonest.

Companionship

See Relationships, Marriage, Family

Watching birds and squirrels outside your window with someone you love is the best way to spend the morning.

What greater treasure could any man have than a companion who believes in and admires him?

Always be a devoted wife and friend to your husband.

Comparison

Never allow someone to be the last player picked for a team. Simply divide the last four.

When someone comes your way that seems to have more, or can do more than you, allow him or her to be an inspiration for you. It is not fair to compare yourself to other people. They are what they are, and you are what you are. We all have differences of ability and insight, but singleness of purpose. Do not allow envy to touch you.

Competition

To be the best, you must have competition of the best.

You cannot develop all of your abilities unless you compete with someone with the ability to challenge you. They help you raise the bar in your life.

It's not about X's and O's. It never has been. What works on paper doesn't necessarily work on the field of competition. You must make plays. Sometimes instinct is what makes it all come together. Don't get bogged down in legalism on any level.

Chase the dream, not the competition.

Complaining

If you constantly complain, you will eventually close the ears of those who are in sympathy with your cause.

Complaining is a form of idolatry. To complain is to make an idol out of your opinion. The end result is stubbornness.

Grumbling and complaining is the product of an unthankful heart.

Don't take it to heart when you hear the whispers and complaints of the man who works for you. He murmurs by reason of his load, just as you have cursed others by reason of your load. Give them a little space.

Compliments

Learn to say "Thank You" when a compliment is given. It is rude and insulting for you to suggest that the compliment is not received.

If someone bombs in a speech or presentation (*everybody does at one time or another*) and you find yourself in the position that you must afterward respond to the speaker, there are a few rules that you must remember. They usually know when they bomb, and feel much worse than you can imagine. Don't instruct them unless they ask you to do so. That only confirms to them how bad it was. If you do instruct them (*at their request*), see that you do it when you are alone with them. Show mercy by helping them save face. Don't say it was good if it wasn't. They can see through that. Here is how you should respond. Try to remember at least one of their points that you felt was a good point and say something like this: "*The point you made about _____ was very good and spoke to me. I really appreciate it.*" Then drop it. There is no need to comment any further.

Compromise

If you kiss, they will surely tell. Your compromise will imprison you.

Whatever you compromise to keep, you will most likely lose, and more.

Conduct

See Discipline,

All of your conduct should be determined by the needs of the people you are with at the time. Don't be insensitive or stubborn. Otherwise you will be a blessing to no one.

Life is made up of simple little disciplines.

Confession

He who is working so vigorously to get you to confess does not know near as much as he is telling you.

Never confess anything to anyone who is trying to hurt you. It will be used against you. Always seek counsel first.

Confession of the mouth is more than spiritual chanting. It is the method of initiating the seed and then protecting it. It allows or disallows thoughts that would filter through the mind and into the field of production.

Confidence

Confidence will find rhythm, or rhythm will find confidence. They cannot help but find one another.

When you are right with certainty and conviction, people will get uncomfortable.

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The only time one draws response is when he is radical enough to challenge the trends of the hour.

Confidentiality

Never share your problems and troubles with someone if they are unqualified to help you.

If you give your word about silence, then let your word be your bond. Don't even tell your mate. If you must tell your mate, or someone else, make that known before you receive their secret. I am amazed at how many people break their word in this area. It is a reproach to their honor and integrity.

Conflict

See Arguments

Do not join yourself to a contentious man's cause. His quarrel is from within and not without. He will draw you into his cause and in the end he will turn on you and you will surely pay his debt.

The quarreler's contemptuous spirit is greater than his loyalty to you.

If you are in conflict with your mate, don't be side tracked by unrelated issues. Although they may be issues that play into the problem, they will prevent you from seeing the heart of the matter.

You don't always get to pick your wars. You are at times pulled into conflict that is not your doing. Don't just march into battle. Try to pick your battlefield. Let the time and place be to your advantage.

To show kindness and a soft reply in the face of another man's anger will often disarm him and turn away his wrath. The first aim in any conflict is to disarm your opponent.

Any time you experience turmoil or conflict whether it is in the context of a nation, church, or business, the strife and contention are usually found in a very small minority. In most cases, it is only one or two people causing the turmoil. Deal with them and a great calm will follow. The scripture says *"cast out the scorner and strife and contention will cease."* One person with a contentious spirit can cause turbulence at every level. Their spirit is prevailing. They don't speak for the majority, but at times it seems like they do. Don't listen to them. Don't resign your position or yield to their pressure. The storm will soon pass and they will fade away. They cannot unseat you, so they try to pressure you into unseating yourself.

Blunt speaking people aren't gentle with other people's feelings, so they hardly understand gentle correction.

When you need to resolve conflict but can't seem to get there, ask if you can "start this dance over." Sometimes you need to get a fresh start.

We try to embrace truth but filter it through our misconception of ourselves.

Conformity

There is nothing wrong with conformity. It is a natural trait of humanity. Just make sure that you conform to the right things.

Confrontation

Don't wait until you are confronted by a problem to prepare for confrontation. Anticipate your role in it. Always allow there to be a

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redeeming climate and environment. Most of all, pray for proper timing. I believe timing is one of the most important keys to confrontation. Don't try to push anyone into a confrontation, but when it arises, don't back down from it.

He that doesn't confront his enemies when he is with them will confront them again and again when he is alone.

Contentment

I am torn once again to decide what is really important. What is the motivation of what I would consider "my purpose"? The big "WHY" keeps popping up, and on top of that I keep peeking to see the fruit that my labor might be producing. It seems to be a lot of motion, a lot of movement, and when it is done, I am none the better. It is possible that I have a perfect place prepared for myself, yet I reach out looking for a Utopia of some sort. I suppose the gift of contentment is found in a thankful heart, and the insight to see that the Lord is in charge of my every moment. I don't need to pursue a place in society or history. I just need to be a good steward over what He has placed in my hands, and trust Him to bring promotion in His time. Where is the struggle in that? Hmmm!

Controversy

If you continue to raise controversial issues, don't be surprised that controversy and argument stays at the forefront of your life. Sometimes you need to just let it go and move on.

Contracts

The big print giveth, and the small print taketh away. I know we have heard this all of our lives, but I have seen countless situations where people got burned because they did not know or understand what their contract had to say. If you don't understand it, get a neutral party to explain it to you.

If the contract is for something very important, you should have a lawyer look at it before you sign it.

Your credit report usually tells how disciplined you are with the stewardship of your resources.

Conscience

Reason is the voice of my mind, feeling is the voice of my body and conscience is the voice of my spirit. I don't feel it is my responsibility to dictate the lifestyle of others. Rather my responsibility is to help them find the voice of their own conscience. I have never done a wrong that my conscience did not pull at me. This is true even when I had no scripture as a foundation. It is different with each man, but it is in the yielding to your conscience that you find peace. To violate your conscience is to trouble your life. I know that it is possible to sear your conscience, but in that case you must spend time in meditation to find that voice again. It is a great achievement to listen to your heart. I feel it wrong to me to dictate someone else's lifestyle based on my conscience. That won't bring lasting change. The same God that deals with me can also deal with them if they are open. If they are not open, all that I could say would produce nothing.

Your conscience is the voice of your spirit and the guide of your youth. To harden your heart and betray its leading is to put out your eyes in the time of war.

When your conscience is seared because of stubbornness and hardness of heart, new boundaries of conduct take its place. You will find yourself doing things that you would never have done before.

It doesn't matter how much you keep a secret over your misconduct; there is always one person who will know. You!

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Is there a true standard for right and wrong? Where are the lines of ethical standards drawn? I find that with each generation the standard moves. The taboos of yesterday have become our daily activity today. People do things today without a thought that they would have never considered a generation or two ago. And what is condemned in one part of the world is considered normal behavior in another part. The absolute standard of right and wrong is covered in the Word of God. However, the scripture at times seems unclear in addressing specifics of conduct and morality. When scripture is unclear, as it is with many of the traditions of man, the highest authority is that of the conscience.

Conspiracy

Every profession is a conspiracy against laity. Knowledge makes its living off of ignorance.

Contentment

It is better to have less and be at peace than to have great abundance with a troubled and vexed spirit.

The key to life is to be a lover of life, to be a lover of wisdom, and to have a thankful heart. Learn to celebrate what God has given you.

To enjoy life and embrace its goodness is a gift from God.

To grieve over that which is not is vanity and waste, for God has richly given us all things to enjoy.

Great abundance is a chain about your neck. It neither satisfies nor fulfills, and he who has it shall not sleep. Safety and fullness is in the heart and not the hand.

Better is a small portion in the hand than the wandering of desire, for through the wandering of desire are the eyes made blind and the soul impoverished.

Flattery will not bring completeness, neither the pursuit of great dreams enough, for the praise of man is as an empty cloud, and the pursuit of dreams unending. But the face of God brings fullness, and when I behold His face I am satisfied.

Control

Choose your solution, then your emotion.

If you are in control of everything in your life, you are most likely standing still.

Cooperation

As more people become involved in your project, unity and cooperation must be a priority of the team. Otherwise the constant pulling in different directions will make your journey cumbersome. Cooperation comes when the plan is made clear. You can only cooperate with that which you understand.

Cooperation involves give and take on your part. There is no such thing as “one-sided” cooperation. It takes two. Both are working toward an end.

Core Values

Proverbs 9:1 Wisdom hath built her house. She hath hewn out her seven pillars. In this scripture we see the principle of core values. Core values are more than good ideas from which we try to direct our life. They are the very foundation on which we build our life. Everyone lives by core values on some level, from a gang member on the street to the king's

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throne. They may not understand or articulate what those values are, but when it comes to making decisions for your life, you reach for an inner voice that tells you what is right. To violate that voice is to open your life to ruin. If that voice is too vague, you can too easily compromise the things that should be important to you. When your core values are clear, most of your decisions are made in advance. Core Values are not business strategies, they simply guide business processes. They articulate what we stand for and guide us in making decisions.

If you haven't determined what your core values are yet, you need to ask yourself the question, "what is important to me? Which principle do I consider to be of the most value?" When you know your values, it helps you find your way in life.

To give you an example, these are my Core Values. I have seven of them.

Love

Love is the fullest expression of God's nature that there is. Love is the motivation for my actions and decisions. When I am rooted and grounded in love my capacity for experience is unlimited. The expressions of love are seen in 1st Corinthians 13.

Wisdom

Through wisdom and understanding all of the regions of life are explored and maximized. Wisdom provides the capacity to realize what is of value in life for one's self and others. The searching out of wisdom is a priority to our family. The motto of the Edmon family is, "Wisdom and Understanding Conquers All".

Worship

Worship is the adoring acknowledgment of God. Worship goes to the core of who we are in relation to being creative in his image. Worship is communion and fellowship with God. It is to live in a state of thanksgiving and spiritual awareness. Worship is to live from the inside out.

Family

When I think of family, I think of generations. How will my decisions and actions impact my wife, children, and grandchildren? I desire to create a Camelot and haven of safety. A place of unconditional love, acceptance and triumph. The highest priority of my time and leadership is focused within my own home and to my own family.

Relationships

The most important thing in the world is people. The access to our future is found in relationship. All promotions certainly come from God but it comes through people. So to those people I want to discover the power of giving myself through vulnerability, transparency and dependency and to join in a partnership with my fellowman thereby empowering them to reach their highest potential in the context of love and purpose. I want to create a flow that brings people together in relationship with vision and opportunity, to produce optimism that causes people to continue to reach for their dreams.

Health

I want to be physically, emotionally, financially, and socially healthy. I want to function in all of these areas without any sense of handicap or limitation. For example, I don't have to be rich, but I do want to be financially healthy. I want my relationships to be healthy relationships. I want to be connected socially in a way that is mutually healthy for everyone concerned.

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Excellence

My ambition is to capture the attitude and action of excellence, to develop the habits of care and detail. Excellence comes from a sense of passion to maximize our fullest potential in serving God and our fellow man. I want the will to win, the desire to succeed and the urge to reach my fullest potential. Excellence results in honor and honor is the seed for access.

Counsel

See Grief

Of all the people that I know, I trust the opinion of my wife the most.

In times of disaster, you don't have to have the words, just the attitude.

A young man left to his own will come to ruin, but in the counsel of a father he is protected.

For young people to grow without responsibility will cause the delusion that they can live without responsibility. As a result they will indulge in wrong things without the consideration of the consequences that it holds. With most things in life, the price tags are only revealed in times of council or correction.

Although we allow our children room to make mistakes, if we don't add that they must correct those mistakes, they have learned nothing.

Praise a child and watch him grow.

If you are going to accept the task of counseling someone, your first goal is to get a clear understanding of why they are there. You must find out what the problem is and what they want the results to be. The rest

of the questions fall in place behind these. It would surprise you how many people really don't know what the problem is, much less the solution.

When you counsel someone, learn to listen. It takes discipline and determination. Look for the conversation that is going on between the lines. Learn to ask questions that make them think and that help them come to the right conclusions on their own.

When interpreting misbehavior, you need to say the following things:

What are you doing?

You are supposed to be this way.

Here are the affects of your actions.

You have a decision.

The man who makes his decisions on the basis of his passions and compulsions, without the counsel of a father, will lay an improper foundation.

Courage

Take courage. Don't let it deny you.

Courage is honor in the face of fear.

Never hesitate to give courage to those who need it.

Be very slow to pick up another man's courage. He may be a fool.

No matter what you are going through, someone else has been there before you and overcome.

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While at the Newark airport, I was watching a group of Polish people board their plane to go home. These are a tough group of people. They fought with all of their hearts against Hitler, even when they knew they didn't stand a chance. What courage and heart they had. I applaud them.

Courtesy

Always return telephone calls within 24 hours. Answer important mail within three days. All other mail should be answered within ten days.

When the lower classed element becomes involved in any sport, courtesy and manners are the first things to go.

When someone sends a plate of food to your house, make sure it has something in it when it is returned. Never return an empty plate.

Cowardice

Courage does not mean that you are never afraid. It just means that you take action even when you are afraid.

Cowardice is not summed up in running from a fight. Sometimes that is the bravest act of all.

Be very careful how you measure another man for cowardice. It can leave you looking pretty hypocritical. I have determined that most men who are quick to speak about another man's fear have fears and shortcomings of their own. What is a coward? Is it that he is afraid to die? Is it weakness in a certain area that labels a man with that ugly word? Show me the man without frailty and weakness in some area. Maybe he is not afraid of the dark, but is he kind to his children and wife? Is his bluff a cover for his insecurity? The point is that the weakness of our flesh is manifest in many different ways. What a man feels may not be cowardice at all. There may be a lot of unseen

circumstances in his past that causes him to draw back or be afraid. Don't be too quick to jump on the bandwagon with an individual who builds his confidence by judging and labeling others. I personally feel that we are all pretty incredible if you catch us at the right time.

Creativity

Nothing encourages creative thinking like limited resources.

The Wright Brothers didn't invent flight. They discovered it. All that you will ever need is here. You have just got to look for it.

Advanced communication increases technology.

Too much production can steal creativity.

Credit

Credit card debt will bankrupt any society. In general, the nature of man will not let him abstain from compulsion.

Creditor

See Debt

To most people, creditors become slave owners. It is evident that the borrower is servant to the lender. For the most part, creditors are merciless. Remember that before you sell them your name.

Crime and Punishment

Until punishment fits the crime, lawlessness will never be deterred.

Without punishment, the offender is deprived of the clarity needed to grow beyond the crime they have committed.

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The greatest deterrent to crime is fear.

Crime will not cease until it is equaled with punishment. Proper punishment will deter.

Criticism

Criticism is unmerciful and its affect is life-long.

Criticism is the wrong response to the need for change.

Being critical does not demand that you know anything.

Let God Judge, the Holy Spirit convict, the Bible instructs, the devil accuse and you encourage.

As soon as you begin to criticize and complain about someone or something, that person or thing begins to lose value to you and the people who hear you. I think that is why God told us not run our mouths! He brings people, places and opportunities into our lives, but we failed to preserve their value and they are lost. You cannot maintain respect for what you criticize. Criticism devalues everything it touches.

Criticism devalues. That is why you should never criticize your mate.

Don't let the basis of your fellowship with other people be criticism.

Isn't it interesting that the path of criticism is what led Judas to destruction?

Learn to handle criticism without being critical.

Criticism becomes toxic.

Judgment always makes room for criticism and criticism always makes room for division. The fact is judgment and criticism never leaves you where you are. It always takes you someplace. When it does you can't always return. You are never allowed to feel the same about the person.

Once you give criticism a place in your heart, it becomes a root.

Curiosity

Ninety percent of your thoughts today are the same as they were yesterday. This is because of the loss of curiosity. Make the decision to never allow yourself to become too old or lazy, too tired or apathetic to be curious.

Cynicism is an enemy to curiosity.

Cruelty

Grief will never depart from the house of the cruel.

Customs

You can never truly understand a person unless you have an understanding of their customs and upbringing.

Cynicism

To be cynical is to cheat yourself of the miracles of life, for you usually get from life what you expect.

The pure in heart sees everything pure. The evil heart sees only a darkened path.

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Cynicism is an excuse for not helping.

D

Dating	Discouragement
Deadlines	Disloyalty
Death	Difficulties
Debate	Dignity
Debt	Disagreement
Deception	Disappointment
Decisions	Discern
Defeat	Discontentment
Delay	Discipline
Denial	Discord
Depression	Discretion
Destiny	Dishonesty
Determination	Doctors
Development	Domination
Diplomacy	Dreams
Disagreements	

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Dating

See Relationships, Marriage

You need to know yourself before you pursue a heavy relationship with someone else.

The only time a “Blind Date” should take place in your life is if the person you are going to date has a visual impairment.

Modern dating is the use of another person for the purpose of self-pleasure without the responsibility of commitment. As a result, the covenant of matrimony has been cheapened. They have sex without commitment and so bring babies into the world without a home. Please think more highly of yourself than to allow yourself to be used for the self-gratification of someone that you are not sure you care to spend your life with.

I dislike the sense of ownership that is displayed in dating for young teens. Friends are very important during these formative years, but I don’t care for the sense of ownership to kids who aren’t mature enough to understand what a relationship is all about. As a result, most young people don’t know how to have friends of the opposite sex without a sense of ownership and control.

I am uncomfortable with dating as it is today. Opening yourself up to someone that you really do not know, and allowing a stranger into the intimate part of your life seems illogical and potentially destructive. Dating, as we know it today, has only existed since the early 1900’s. It carries a sense of carelessness and irresponsibility. It is not the way it has always been, nor is it the way it should be. It bypasses the safety and protection of parents and friends, which are to be the pathway and filter to the marriage relationship.

Why let people into the intimate parts of your life by dating them when that person is not a candidate for marriage? Save the personal time for the one with whom you are truly interested. Courtship is a time of getting to know one another and laying the foundation for the future.

Deadlines

See Business

Deadlines are good in almost all aspects of our life. Personally it helps us measure where we are within the season we are in. It shakes us out of sleep and pushes us to completion of our responsibilities. However when you set deadlines for others it holds the potential of confrontation because it makes everyone transparent and accountable. At this point you must be willing to enforce the deadline or lose your credibility in setting deadlines. Make sure the deadline is worthy of the confrontation.

Death

See Grief, Parent-Child, Parting, Mourning, Sympathy

There comes a time when all men both small and great will go the way of death. When that time comes, we will face death the way we have faced life, courageously.

You should face life with passion and death with expectation. Both are great adventures.

Nothing ceases to be.

What we leave behind is not as important as how we have lived.

The burden of life is with the living. You must dream on.

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During times of loss is not the time to debate Theologies or to make important decisions. I have seen people buy or sell during times of grief and it was almost always the wrong decision. It is not the time to question God or determine what you do or do not believe. Rather, it is the time to love and comfort. It is the time to heal and remember. It is the time to pull your family together and hold them close for a while. I believe a person should wait for one year before they make any decisions that would change their life and take them in a direction that is permanent.

Allow time to mourn for the dead, then turn your heart to the living again.

Although it is not always possible, a very thoughtful gift upon your departure from this life is to have all of your affairs in order. Make preparation to sustain those that you leave behind.

Death is the great equalizer.

Don't be fearful to donate your organs after death. It could be a blessing to someone's child. Wouldn't that really be worth it?

I am not afraid of death, but I do value this life. I cherish every moment.

Debate

See Argument, Narrow Minded, Negotiation, Opinions

Unless truth is our aim, all debates become deceitful and will lose its integrity.

He who knows only one side of the issue knows much less than he thinks. To truly hear the other side of the debate, you must find someone who believes with conviction that their side is correct. Only

then can you have a genuine exchange of passion, thought, and will. When you talk to someone, do not dominate the conversation, or you will look like you are unsure and afraid to hear any opposing view. Pause at due intervals and determine to hear what they are saying. And don't just hear, receive it, absorb it and embody it in your reply. Until we come to the place that we can see all sides of truth, we must realize that our perceptions of truth are only half-truth. Diversity is not necessarily evil. It may be a broader view of what is right.

Simply because you disagree with another person's action does not always give you the right to invade upon them with your opinions, provided their action does not harm anyone.

It is not logical to think in terms of absolutes in our dealings with life. For we judge matters only after they have been filtered through the impure grid of our understanding, prejudice, and upbringing of our fathers, who were certainly tainted with prejudice and a lack of understanding themselves. Am I right in suppressing your opinion because I see it as false? Do I not violate the soul of freedom by squelching your voice because I might disagree with what you believe? How can I assume the authority to speak for all mankind and exclude that which is the right of mankind because I assume their viewpoint is false? Certainty is not absolute certainty. To assume absolute certainty is to assume infallibility.

I find that our perception of truth is only an interpretation of something higher. Just as each brook and stream is the down flow of a greater source; truth flows through and is interpreted through the grid of our thoughts, beliefs, and understanding. Therefore truth as interpreted by us is indeed only an interpretation. Since my conclusion is based on my perception, I must consider that if my perception is off base, then so is my conclusion.

Mutuality is the only basis for genuine discourse.

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Most opposing arguments are simply from a different viewpoint of the same horse. He who only knows his side of the argument babbles in ignorance. It is only as false beliefs are placed upon the table of examination that we have the opportunity to fully understand our own belief. Only when we hear fully that with which we disagree can we with authority embrace that which is our own. Dare we prefer one opinion above another based on ignorance of what the other side holds? The majority of people today hold opinions that they have not earned, but rather ones that have been imposed upon them by their peers. They understand neither the lot nor the sum of the matter they embrace as their own opinion. The majority have never allowed themselves even for a moment to become the person with whom they disagree. If you don't fully know both sides, you have no grounds for professing one above another. We forfeit our rights by adopting the opinion of others based on the inclination of the moment. You might just as well never have freedom if you simply choose to go the direction of the majority.

When you must debate an issue, be blunt and straightforward with truth as you see and understand it. If you don't believe it then why should anyone else?

Debt

See Stewardship, Money

A fool puts his name on the line for the debts of another fool.

Some people are bound by alcohol, some by drugs, and the taskmaster of debt is equally cruel.

There is no dignity in debt. It is intimidating and hindering. It is bondage and slavery. Debt is a curse. As all slavery goes, greed is at the heart of it. Greed is on one side of it and compulsion and lack of judgment on the other.

The flow of financial opportunities has a down side to equal its high side. The man who is in debt is bound to take the ride down. The key is to be debt free, and when you see that the downswing is coming, you can step out of the loop for a while. Catch it on the upside. A debt free man is free to control his own destiny, and he can go from one peak to another. However, the time to buy is when the flow is on the bottom. Hard times hold many opportunities.

God intended for you to enjoy what he has given you. To really enjoy it, pay cash.

A co-signer is a fool with a pen in his hand.

I don't see debt as wrong in the sense that you have done some evil thing if you go in debt. Some people use other people's money as leverage to bring greater opportunity to themselves. But that is not the case in most people's lives. Do I consider it smart? No! Do I think there is a better way? Yes!

Deception

See Integrity, Truthfulness

Don't invite someone to dinner if you have nothing to feed him or her.

Don't pretend to be an expert in areas that you are not.

I have seen people justify their bad decisions by calling it destiny. I have seen the same person believe it. This is the ultimate deception. You deceive yourself.

Never be pressured into thinking that you have to be someone that you are not. Have confidence in what God has put in you.

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Motives paint the heart and slander our name.

Decisions

I have found that great men do not always possess wisdom and aged men do not always have understanding. So learn to listen to your heart and decide for yourself, for in the end you must answer for your own decisions.

Decision-making is a learning process. Practice making decisions.

You cannot ignore the responsibility of making decisions. It's like canoing on a swift river. If you don't make the decision, the river will make one for you.

Your will is the doorway of entrance to your whole man, and to open that door to an enemy is to imprison your soul.

If the direction of your life is someone else's fault, it will take someone else to fix it. Remember that it is your decisions and not other people who should determine your direction.

Refuse to let people pressure you into decisions. I realize that some decisions are "time sensitive" such as contracts and crisis, and they have to be handled. However, sometimes it is simply pressure from other people. You must discern where the pressure is coming from.

Decisions are the most important part of your life.

Always consider the spiritual implications of your decisions.

When you make a decision, do everything in your power to take time and make sure it is the right decision.

Let every deed you do and every decision you make be for the sake of Heaven.

The worst decisions are made when you are angry, tired, lonely, or hungry.

Every man is a channel of some kind. The choice is his.

Every decision has a window of opportunity. You must learn to hear your heart.

If you are having a problem making decisions, change the atmosphere. Go do something totally unrelated to your decision and let your head clear.

If someone is talking to you about something that will require a decision from you, and his or her language or knowledge is over your head, don't pretend to be smarter than you are. Stop them and tell them to put it in a language that you can understand.

One of the key points of decision making is that you have got to know the facts. With all good decisions, someone has done their homework.

Even as the mouth tastes meat and wine, so should you try all of the words of instruction that are given to you; for your spirit can discern right from wrong, and your inward man will instruct you in all matters of the heart.

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If you are willing to leave the moral decisions to the will of the majority, you should not be shocked that right would not prevail.

Refuse to let people pressure you into making decisions.

Defeat

Our only real defeat is when we stop talking to and listening to one another.

Delay

See Hesitation

How many windows of opportunity have we missed simply because we delayed to act?

Denial

I have heard it said that denial is not just a river in Egypt. It could be your home address. If someone has something to say about you, take a moment to consider it. If you think that they could be right, then seek the counsel of a friend to talk about it. Be prepared to change if it is true.

Every message applies to someone else, doesn't it?

Depression

In too many case depression is nothing more than legalized pouting. It is the wrong path and will postpone change. Make the decision to walk above it.

Don't cuddle and accommodate depression. It must be dealt with as an enemy. It is designed to darken your life and steal your momentum. Don't give place to it for even a moment. Resist its hold and forbid its entrance into your life.

As with all things, the access for depression is a thought. The hinge to that door is your will.

Desire

Desire is one of the greatest assets for our spiritual development. The problem is that our desire has been polluted and splintered by the things of the world. When our whole desire is toward the Lord, He will be found of us.

Destiny

You don't decide what you are, you discover it.

Mankind is designed to have dominion over the handy work of God. We were born to taste the grapes.

Thoughts become deeds. Deeds become habits. Habits shape your character. Character takes you to your destiny.

There are books that still need to be written and songs that need to be sung. Never give up on your dream.

Don't let your pilgrimage become a rat race.

Yes or no is not the answer you are looking for. It doesn't matter who they are or what they say. They are simply a vehicle. Release yourself to the flow that leads you to your destined path.

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Determination

I have seen determination do the impossible. I have also seen the person without it never succeed at anything. Sometimes determination is the only thing that gets you over the obstacles of impossibilities.

There are two doors in life, opportunity and impportunity.

Those who are unwilling to lose seldom do. Those who are unwilling to be defeated seldom are. We don't play nine innings. We play until we win.

Development

The advancement of any culture is defined by how well its people communicate.

BE, DO and HAVE. If you do not possess the first word, then you will spend your whole life living the second, chasing the third.

Difficulties

Difficulties unmask our strengths.

The weeds of a hardened heart are what calls for the plow in your life.

Difficult people help you see into yourself.

The gale blows on everyone's life. It is not the gale but rather the sail that determines the course your ship will take.

Dignity

It is a proper thing to allow your opponent to retain dignity. Never be mean-spirited after your victory.

Dignity is a practiced virtue.

Diplomacy

See Manners, Courtesy, Wisdom, Debate

An hour of patience can bring a decade of peace. Believe in the conclusion.

I truly believe that a man without diplomacy cannot effectively deal with a crisis situation. He values his opinion too much.

Although I believe that diplomacy is needed in every situation, we must not forget that people who tell lies are called liars and should be treated as such.

Although our languages may be different, our desires, aspirations, hope, and needs are the same. Learn to give of yourself and you will have a profound effect on everyone you meet.

It's a difficult situation to have a guest over for dinner and they won't go home. How do you dismiss them? Let's suppose that the dinner is at 7:30 p.m. A good time to leave would be around 9:30 p.m., or at the latest 10:00 p.m. The guest of honor should actually be the first to leave, giving a signal for the other guests to follow at that time. If you have no guest of honor or your guest does not know the protocol, at the end of the evening, you, as the host, can rise from your chair and with a jolly attitude express your appreciation for all of the guests coming, then say, *"It is late. I'm sure everyone has a busy day tomorrow, let's call it an evening."* If you know ahead of time that you have to dismiss them at an early hour,

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or at a specific hour, it is helpful to let them know in advance that you have to do so because of other obligations. They won't mind if you let them know early. If you are at a restaurant, you can call for the check, express how much you enjoyed the evening and make a statement like, *"Well, it's time to let these fine people clear these tables."* If someone is in your office, you can rise, and usually they will rise at the same time. Your conversation and body language will tell them that it is time to leave. As you rise in a warm manner move toward them and then toward the door. End with a statement like, *"I appreciate you coming by to see me."* All of this will vary depending on the individual, but it will at least give you a rule of thumb.

Disagreements

You are always wrong to embarrass someone simply because they disagree with you.

You can win the debate and lose the election. Sometimes it is not so important to prove your point, especially, if it is someone for whom you care. Do you care for them enough to not prove your point?

Discouragement

When your efforts seem to come to a dead end, remember that there is more than one road to your destination.

If you are expecting quick results on the rebuilding of a major project, you are going to be disappointed. It takes time. Sometimes quick results are not lasting results.

Discrimination

See Prejudice

As long as there is pride, ignorance, fear and hatred, prejudice will thrive. I assume that it will always be among us.

Disloyalty

Disloyalty is a condition of the heart. If a man is disloyal with his neighbor, he will be disloyal with you. Watch him. He is not worthy of your trust.

If a dog comes into your yard carrying a bone, when he leaves he will most likely be carrying a bone. Even so, if a man comes into your camp talking about the place he just came from, most likely he will be talking about you when he leaves your camp and goes to another.

Disagreement

Every disagreement must have a predetermined conclusion; otherwise, the result is an unresolved argument. That has a destructive effect on your relationship. Show respect for the opinion of others.

Disappointment

It helps if you are always experiencing disappointment from others to lower your expectations of them. For that to last, you have to raise your expectations on God.

Allow God to heal your disappointments; otherwise you will be fearful to look into the future and pursue your dreams.

Any man or woman who ever pursued anything beyond the comfort of their home will taste disappointment. It comes with the territory.

When you don't have any answers, you must have a resolve. Stick to your resolve and the answers will come.

Life is full of disappointments. Don't be too quick to deflate the dreams of your friend, even if you feel that they will fail in their pursuits. Let

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them enjoy the ride for a little while. If it goes sour, then be there for them. You never know. They may surprise you.

If you are experiencing a lot of disappointment from the people around you, maybe you should examine your expectations of them.

Discern

In our discerning, we would never have judged Lot as righteous or Judas as a devil. Be very careful what you say. When looking at someone's character, be slow to speak and slow to judge.

Discontentment

Discontentment can sometimes be a sign that your life is in a transition.

Discipline

Discipline without relationship results in rebellion.

The discipline of your children without a hug is never complete.

The discipline of your own flesh is the molding of your character.

A society is spoiled and brought to ruin when the work ethic is undermined.

If you are governed by appetite and compulsion, then you are as much a slave as the man who has a chain around his neck.

Discord

See Criticism

Sowing discord is like sowing seed. You plant words that grow in the heart. You sow something to disrupt the rhythm and draw from the nutrition of the plant.

Discretion

Nothing works to its highest ability unless it is seasoned with discretion.

Grace should be the seasoning for your entire conversation.

You are too presumptuous if you answer a question before it is asked.

Learn to arrive at conclusions without expressing them.

Dishonesty

A man who lies to you will also steal from you.

Doctors

Allow your family doctor to become an old friend. Acknowledge his or her contributions and let them hear that you are thankful.

Modern day medicine has made us dependent on technology instead of forcing us to become responsible for our own health.

It is just as important to find a doctor that practices what he preaches as it is to find a minister that practices what he preaches.

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Never consider the word of the doctor as final authority simply because he has done all he knows to do.

I've never known of a doctor who was above making mistakes. Remember that they are doing the best they can but they are just practicing. If you are to ever undergo anything serious, get a second and third opinion. It is still your body and you are the one who has to live with it.

I once heard that 89% of hospital bills contain errors in favor of the hospital. Always get an itemized statement and don't be afraid to ask questions.

I am astonished at the arrogance of the medical profession in light of what they don't know.

Doctors need to treat people and not diseases. They need to humanize their profession again.

Doctors who tell their patients that they are going to die play more of a role than they realize in their quick death. Even though they try, it is difficult for them not to play God. In reality, what they mean is that they are at the end of their understanding about the problem. It is very arrogant to suggest that nothing else can be done.

Domination

I have determined that when you are on a trip, women need to stop more than men do. I recall one trip where I was doing my male marathon. When Angie needed to stop I said, "You will just have to wait". Her reply summed up one of the greatest problems in relationships. She said, "Who made you bathroom monitor?" As I thought about that, I realized how we draw lines around other people based on nothing more than our mood for the moment. In essence, we

become the bathroom monitor. We expect everyone to get in agreement with our value or belief system, which either puts limitation on others or puts them in a zone in which they are totally uncomfortable. In reality, what grants us the position to determine what is acceptable or not in a relationship? We become lofty and arrogant in our newly seated position. Me upon my throne of life, and how dare you challenge my word. And all the while the breach between us widens. I am not talking about issues that are clearly wrong and violate the laws of man and God. I am speaking about nit picking and making judgments based on nothing more than “I don’t like it or just because.” Once I accepted my true position, I enjoyed my trips more and so did she.

The work of the flesh called witchcraft is manifest in three ways, manipulation, intimidation, and domination. Witchcraft means, “To smite with the eye”.

Dreams

Your ideas are great. Pursue them and don’t let anyone talk you out of them.

Respect the dreams and hopes of others. It may be all that they have.

Immortality is discovered in the passing on of dreams and ideas.

In truth you must fight for the things that you believe.

Write down the dreams of the night in your heart for they declare the hidden agendas and purposes of your life.

When there is no dream, your purpose will seem unclear and you will lose our way.

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Don't just dream big things, dream right things.

E

Eating
Economy
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Elderly
Emphasis
Employment
Encouragement
Enemies
Endurance
Enemies
Energy
Entertainment
Envy
Equality
Esteem
Ethics
Euthanasia
Evil
Exaggeration
Example
Excess
Excellence
Expectation
Excuses
Experience
Extravagance

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Eating

Don't eat or drink something if you have to acquire a taste for it.

Feed your body what your body needs and your emotions what your emotions need. What we have done is feed our body what our emotions need. I call it "comfort food." Many people eat when they are stressed, lonely, depressed or anxious. It is a sensual thing that we do to feel good. We are actually trying to feed our emotions through our mouth. When you eat emotionally, it is never healthy for you. As a matter of fact, when you eat for these reasons, it is usually anything but healthy. If we would just feed our body what our body needs, we would easily eliminate all of the junk from our diet. A good question to ask your self is, "why am I eating?"

Feed your stomach, not your mouth.

The human body is a perfect machine. It is God's finest creation on this planet. It has the capacity and design to maintain perfect health. The body is always striving for health, ever working to cleanse itself of deleterious waste material. Learn how to facilitate this process. What you take into your body has a major impact on the length and quality of your life. Medical care is not the solution to today's health problems. The solution is found in the food that we take into our bodies. I might also add that the greatest threat to your health is found in what you eat. It is only when you break the natural laws of life that you experience poor health or physical breakdown. Divine health is your birthright. Guard it well.

Take small bites and learn to taste the food in your mouth. It does no good to take large bites and swallow before you taste it. Thin eaters take more delight in the taste than the quantity. When your stomach says that you are full, stop eating. It is surprising how many people do not know how to listen to their stomachs.

Although I believe you should eat fruits and vegetables as often as possible, I believe you should especially try to eat them in their season. There is a purpose for all things both great and small.

Economy

If the world has a sick economy, America will soon catch that disease. It is to our interest to see that prosperity is not limited to the United States.

Economics is directly linked to our value system.

Education

See Teachers

All of the state educational institutions should be set up on a voucher system. The school that does not give out an education does not deserve to exist.

There should never be a day that you graduate from learning. Education is a life-long experience.

True education is not just the mechanics of numbers and formulas.

Education is the key to increased opportunity. The more you get, the more you get.

Without education, you are doomed to the lower rung of the corporate ladder.

True education is summed up in the learning about yourself and the molding and refining of your character to fulfill your mission in life. All other learning is just entertainment. If you don't understand the why of

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education, it is just the meaningless crunching of numbers. Therefore, the educator is not just a communicator of facts, but rather a miner of precious gems. A true educator will have the insight to help pinpoint the strengths of their pupils and lead them to their purpose. All education should have a destination.

No civilization advances beyond its education.

There are two things that would dramatically improve the modern day educational system: a dress code and homework.

There are some things you learn in school that may not be usable, but it keeps you in the habit of learning to learn.

Ego

Our ego is the foundation from which our confidence is built. The ego consists of the experiences that we feel confident and secure with. It is based on what we know about our present circumstances and surroundings. To move up in life, you have to be willing to have that ego be dismantled. Otherwise, any new revelation or belief will be grabbed by your ego and try to build on it based on the present insecurities or confidences. Ego tries to grab any revelation and build on it at the present level. Your ego is a marker for your life.

Elderly

The worse thing that we can do for the elderly is to eliminate their usefulness. Keep them busy and let them dream. It will add happiness to their life and prolong their days.

Emotion

Dialogue must be emotion driven if it is to be believable.

Emphasis

Nothing comes wrapped in silk. It all arrives in burlap. You determine its significance.

Employment

Never start a new job without sitting down with your boss and discussing each part of your contract. Clearly understand your salary, benefits, and job description. A good understanding prevents a misunderstanding down the line.

Encouragement

Affirmation triggers your inner strengths.

Endurance

Endurance is seen in the final rounds of a contest and is the mark of the elite in life.

Make a decision to go the distance.

Enemies

See Opposition

Only a fool makes an enemy of a stranger without a cause.

Never underestimate an enemy no matter how small.

Threats are never just talk. It is a sign that something is wrong. Watch out for the person in the workplace who makes threats, who has fixations on coworkers, who experiences depression and paranoia. They could be very dangerous.

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Energy

Boredom produces fatigue, and work produces energy.

If you want to be energetic, then act energetic. Your whole body is waiting for commands, and every cell will respond to action.

Clothe yourself in energy and ambition. It will affect everyone around you.

Endeavors that delight you will bring your abilities to life. An unpleasant task will cause your abilities and skills to dull. You gotta love what you do.

Your energy level is affected by what you eat. Proper balance is the key. Break your intake into three parts. 25% in the morning, 50% at noon, and 25% in the evening. Live on a low fat diet. Try not to eat past 6:00 P.M.

Entertainment

It is amazing how entertaining reasonable conversation can be.

You can usually tell a lot about a society by how it entertains itself. As brutality and sensuality increases, you see that people as a whole are becoming bored, and the need for the spectacular and the perverse increases.

Entertainment and an idle hand are brothers, and their finished work is ruin.

A thinker should think. We have relinquished our ability to think to television and other forms of entertainment that are controlled by the

mind shapers of our generation. Entertainment means “Don’t think.” “*Muse*” means “*To think*” and “*A*” is a Latin prefix that means “*Not*”. Therefore amusement means “*Not to think*.” Never give up the right to make up your own mind and think for yourself.

Television should be considered as a spice, rather than the whole meal. Be careful that it does not consume your whole day. Don’t spend your time watching other people live their life and fulfill their dreams. Go live your own dreams and create a life that is fulfilling for you and your family. Television is an echo chamber for the radical left. You need to be aware of that when it comes to the protection of family values and the raising of your children.

Envy

Strife is the child of envy. It comes when you are in competition with someone who has more toys and you can’t do anything about it. So, you just boil and fume with envy.

Envy is the master critic. It always has a degrading comment about the success of others. It always finds a complaint. Envy breeds discontentment and will cause you to keep three jobs, just to keep up with the Joneses.

When envy rules I can’t compliment you because I am in competition with you. Envy will interpret the success and acceptance of your brother as your rejection and failure. God wants us free from that rat race so we might be free to serve one another.

Equality

Equality at any cost is socialism.

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The equality in life is that all men have three God given commodities, time, talent and energy. You can do two things with them, spend them or invest them.

The rich, the poor, the great, the mighty, the lowly, and the common, are not they all the works of His hands? Let us not boast one against the other. For He embraces the wise and His favor is with him of understanding.

I don't believe quotas work. In the long run, it enhances dependence on others to carry you. It downgrades quality and ties the hands of those who seek excellence. I understand that people need opportunities, but I can see this more on an entry level. An "across the board" requirement for quotas is very frustrating to those in leadership. The same is true for "across the board" pay increases.

Esteem

You cannot have correct self-esteem unless you understand who you are in Christ. Anything else leads to humanism and emptiness.

Ethics

Through ethics, we express the worth of the person that we are dealing with, at least in our eyes. And thereby express our code of conduct based on those ethics. The value that we place on others determines our level of respect, manners and courtesy.

This is a look into our social success and failure. Life is designed to work and you have to do something wrong to mess that up. It is almost always found in how we treat people. Do we keep our word? Do we hustle or take advantage of people? Sometimes the reasons are clear.

You aren't nice to people,

You take more than you give,

You don't keep your word,

You are not always honest

You only show genuine interest in people when they can do something for you.

All of this is a reflection of your core values. This is where your ethics are seen.

In 2 Peter 1:5, the bible would call it Virtue. It is something that you add to your life. It is the quality to do what is right. It is an understanding that your life functions in concert to others. It is the rules of fair play. It is also a sense that everything is going to work out if you do what is right. There is not a need to cheat, manipulate or control. You trust the system that God established and determine to operate within its boundaries.

Ethics are everywhere. In every civilization there is a framework for the lifestyle and decisions of its people. We may have educational and social diversity, yet ethics still exist between us, whether in the king's palace or in a gang. Ethics rule. Those who are considered "unethical" are pushed away from society. The bible is a book of ethics. If you violated these laws, you could be stoned or put out of the camp. Even Paul in the New Testament said:

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

2 Thess 3:14-15 KJV

Ethics protect your ability to flow with other people. Ethics are codes of conduct that we follow out of our heart to please God and live in concert with our fellowman. They are a standard of right and wrong that we derive from Jesus' message – *LOVE GOD...LOVE OTHERS*. If you use that as your standard, your ethics will stay in good shape.

Seeds of Life

There is a code of ethics that apply to every area of your life. Your spouse, your job, your children, your ministry and relationship to God. In our relationship with God, we call an ethics violation “sin” and repent for it. In the other areas of our lives, I believe it is still sin and also needs to be repented of.

Ethics are responses from our core beliefs to things that become “*out of balance*” with what is right. My core beliefs identify the decisions that I need to make in my life. I disallow an action because “something” in me recoils. That “something” is my core value. The recoiling is simply the response to that which crosses the boundaries that my Core Values have built.

Euthanasia

See Suicide, Suffering

Are you speaking of ending a person’s life because they are suffering through pain or letting them go because they are on life support? That is comparing apples and oranges. I don’t assume myself capable to understand the suffering that some are going through on a daily basis. And I certainly don’t want to lightly esteem their condition. But when someone is in extreme pain, they cannot rationally judge their situation, and because I am not in their pain, I cannot make true judgment about what they are truly going through. To help end their life with that understanding or rather lack of understanding would be morally wrong. Neither of us are capable of making that call. The problem with euthanasia is that the boundaries are so many and so vague that judgment becomes unclear. One thing is certain. We must never let the responsibility fall into the hands of the government. If we allow this to come into law, it leaves off the question of right and wrong and becomes an issue of when and who. Who is qualified to answer these questions? If the government controls these reins, the decision will soon become an issue of economics. The same is true with the medical profession. Based on their standard, the patient loses the right to life because they need the bed space. That becomes too easy when you are dealing with people you don’t know. However, as long as we can maintain the value of the human being, there is flexibility. And I am

speaking of someone who is dying. It is my belief that only a family member could ever come close to making that decision. And even then it must be approached with fear and respect. We must never let the government attempt to legislate it into the hands of a stranger. One other thing I want you to consider. To send someone out of this life to end their torment may not end their torment. It may accelerate it for eternity.

Don't be so quick to pass judgment on those who have chosen to end their life as a result of pain and agony. I have never been in such physical anguish that I can relate or even have an understanding of their torment. Therefore, their misery exceeds my ability to make righteous judgment.

Evil

Evil has the ability to overcome any sense of reasoning unless you have made the quality decision to overcome it with a choice.

The cruel regime of Adolph Hitler was an example that evil is ever expanding and knows no bounds. The evil that you allow to live will eventually find its way to destroy you.

Exaggeration

To exaggerate leaves the impression with people that you are impulsive and not quite responsible or levelheaded enough to make a proper judgment concerning a matter. Be sure of your facts before you give them, otherwise, people will take your words lightly and you will look foolish.

Example

Values are caught more than taught. Practice what you preach.

Seeds of Life

Excess

I've always been interested to see what a man does with his excess. It tells a lot about him.

Sometimes the void in people is expressed through excess in some area. I've seen people with excessive jewelry, possessions, or outlandish clothes. Many times they come across as loud and obnoxious. They are driven by a need from within. Sometimes that void is expressed through anger. It is all an unconscious attempt to fill the cry from within. When the void was filled, their behavior changed. This is important when considering why people act the way they do.

Excess, even of a good thing is not good. If you have found something good, use it with moderation.

Excellence

Strive for excellence, not perfection.

Excellence is acquired through aggression and determination.

The first step to be a master craftsman is to throw out your excuses and pride, and then make a decision to become a student and learn.

Our society has almost come to the place where they have replaced excellence with competence.

Don't let "good enough" be good enough.

My ambition is to capture the attitude and action of excellence, to develop the habits of care and detail. Excellence comes from a sense of passion to maximize our fullest potential in serving God and our fellow

man. I want the will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach my fullest potential. Excellence results in honor and honor is the seed for access.

Expectation

See Belief

You generally get what you expect from people.

Expectancy is the fuel of dreams.

You cannot expect other people to work harder for you than you are willing to work for yourself.

People don't do what you expect; they do what you inspect. To fulfill my dreams, I must also inspect myself.

Excuses

When a person is looking for an excuse, any excuse will do.

Experience

Experience is not necessarily the best teacher, but it is the one we remember the most.

The only thing that I really know and the only thing that is mine is what I have by experience.

Extravagance

See Judging, Compulsion

It is hard to put your finger on extravagance. To one man it is one thing, but to another man it is entirely different. The key is to live humbly within your means. If your earnings afford you some of the finer things of life, then so be it. Don't let envy enter your heart. However, extravagance is usually coupled with compulsion and a need to prove something.

Only show extravagance in two areas. Giving and hospitality.

F

Failure

Faith

Familiarity

Family

Fanaticism

Fatherhood

Faults/Fault finding

Favor

Fear

Finishing

Flags

Flattery

Flexibility

Focus

Forgetting

Forgiveness

Freedom

Friendship

Frustration

Future

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Failure

Failure is not fatal. You must continue.

To embrace good is never failure, and to embrace evil is never success.

Failure is to succeed at the wrong thing.

Failure and success does not mean what we have always thought it meant. It is not based on possessions.

Faith

“Thank you” is the greatest faith words that you can speak.

Obedience is the first fruit of faith.

Faith is our response to who God is and what He has done.

It is always at the step of faith that God will meet you.

Faith is the power, hope is the blueprint, and love is the motivation.

The purest faith when run through the filter of man’s reasoning becomes unbelief.

Faith is taking a stand for what you have prayed and believed.

Faith begins when the will of God is known.

Everything around the boat is over your head, but everything around you is under your feet.

Faith is conviction that empowers miracles.

Give me faith that pleases God.

Familiarity

Leadership is lost in familiarity.

In most cases familiarity gives you an advantage. Do your home work.

Family

Communication and fellowship are the most important ingredients in family relationships.

When I think of family, I think of generations. How will my decisions and actions impact my wife, children, and grandchildren? I desire to create a Camelot and haven of safety, a place of unconditional love, acceptance and triumph. The highest priority of my time and leadership is focused within my own home and to my own family.

Home should always be a place of acceptance and approval.

Give to the family what belongs to the family, and to God what belongs to God. Simply because something is owed to one does not mean that the other one should be excluded.

Develop a family mission statement. This is the framework from which we set all of our goals. It's the reason we labor and sacrifice. If you don't

Seeds of Life

have this, you will end up sacrificing your life, health, and time fulfilling goals for no purpose.

Fanaticism

Fanaticism is the only thing that has the courage to pursue change.

When is the last time someone in the middle of the road challenged you to change?

Fatherhood

See Families

Fathers today have over committed themselves until it has become their lifestyle. Their children pay the price for it. Children today are reaching for fathers that aren't there. This void will be with them to their grave. The highest priority of a father is to reserve some of his time and leadership within his own home.

The words of a father are an anchor for the soul, wind for the sail and courage for the journey.

Faults and Fault finding

When love is thick, faults are thin. When love is thin, faults are thick.

The motives of the faultfinder are seldom noble or pure. I assure you that greed and envy can be found. There is a motive.

Favor

It seems to me that people want and expect the miraculous favor of God without any effort on their part. I assume that they expect God's favor to fall on them like pixie dust. Let's look at His design. If you want

the favor that God gives, you should cultivate the character and nature of God in your life. Wisdom, understanding, stewardship, faithfulness, integrity and honor. These are Godly traits that open the door to favor. Out of these comes favor in the market place.

Favors

If someone asks you to do a favor for them, and it is evident that it will be time consuming, always tell them that you need to check your schedule first, even if you believe that your schedule is clear. Don't be too quick to spend your time without at least checking. Over obligation has ruined the reputation of more than one man.

Do your friend a real favor. Don't ask for too many favors. Needy people spoil and bring ruin to their relationships more than they know.

Fear

Fear is hope and faith perverted. They are contrary

Fear is the single most limiting emotion that you can experience. Always remember that it has the ability to make your enemy appear larger than he really is.

A man would be unstoppable if he could be delivered from fear of death, pain, and weakness.

Shortage is only effective against you when you are afraid of it.

I am concerned that we have trained our children to be motivated by fear rather than the zest for life.

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Don't put a chain of fear around someone's neck when trying to stir him or her to action. To stimulate interest or hunger, let them taste what is good.

Let wisdom become your counselor and not fear. If you let fear become your counselor, it will soon become your jailer.

The reason fear is so bad is because the information it gives the body can be real or imagined, but the body doesn't know the difference. The body does not know the difference between reality and unreality. It responds simply to what it is told. It wouldn't even get up in the morning if you didn't tell it to do so. The mind has such power over the body that what the mind perceives as reality is communicated to the body and you physically feel the effects. Worry has the same effect on the body. So does lust. The body responds to what it is told. Fear produces stress that affects all parts of the body and can eventually put you in the grave. This is why Jesus was so emphatic about the believer living free from care and worry. The mind also has the ability to refuse to let stress and fear take up residence. Making the decision to live in the promises of God does this. The reason the Word must be used is because fear cannot be simply displaced; it must be replaced with something bigger than itself.

If someone is going to overcome sickness in their body, fear is an enemy that must come down first and foremost. Fear has the ability to escalate sickness in your body. It will drive you until you are unable to control your thoughts.

Fear is lost in the rescue of another. Get your mind off of yourself and fear leaves you.

A closed life can be endured but never lived.

Focus

What you place value on results in focus which turns to spiritual energy and life. You cannot separate spiritual energy from life. The spirit, soul and body are one unit. The conscience is the voice of your spirit. Reason is the voice of your soul, and feelings are the voice of your body. Pain is not an enemy. It is the voice of your body. However, it can lie against the truth. The truth is the bottom line of the way things are. For that you have to go back to what God said. When you place your value or focus on something, the life force is released to your project through the focus. What you give your attention to and place value on is what has life. You can feel it. The way to kill a vision is with another vision. It turns your attention and drains it of its life force. Your project becomes a zombie. Going through the motions, but not alive.

Finishing

To finish is better than to start.

Some people are sprinters. Some are marathon runners. You must understand this when you expect something from someone. Sprinters have the ability to get things going, and you need that for certain projects, but the marathon runner can finish the job right down to the last detail. You need both on your team. The sprinter is usually the energy of the team, most likely a Sanguine. Learn to utilize their strengths. We spend so much time trying to improve ourselves in areas of weaknesses and on things that we are not good at. I believe you should work on your strengths and staff your weaknesses.

He that begins too many projects seldom finishes them.

Finishing is more important to life than winning. Winning or what we would call success is a journey. We teach our children to win, to be number one, and almost always that is unrealistic. In competition only one team wins. It is possible that only one crosses the finish line first, but they all finish. Every child should be trained that someone will cross

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the finish line first, but everyone must cross the finish line, and they are all successful because of it.

Flags

See Liberty

I think that those who burn the flag do so because they have no understanding of, nor respect for, the blood that was shed for that flag to give them that right. They are the very bottom rung of society.

Burning the flag is a disrespect of an icon. Those that do it slander the very blood that gave them that liberty.

Flattery

Graciously accept the flattery of a friend, but to take it to heart is rottenness to the teeth.

The need for flattery is sometimes a sign of insecurity.

The applause of men and the will of God are not the same, and failure to discern the difference brings an empty life.

Flattery is sometimes deceitful and motives light its way.

A man who cannot bring flattery to its proper place is a man who will soon be lifted up with pride and destroyed.

Beware of the flatterer. His motives aren't always pure.

Don't be afraid to give a compliment. Sometimes the person you are giving it to really needs it.

Flexibility

See Change

If you don't understand the difference between commandments, which cannot be compromised, and guidelines, which can, you will put undue hardship on the people who work with you when it could have been avoided. Guidelines are boundaries not tracks. Flexibility is the key to longevity. This is especially true with your children.

Without flexibility, you will not be able to adapt to the constant changes in life, and you will soon be left behind. To change with change, you must adapt to flexibility.

When you set your agenda, your show should be set but breathable. In other words you must remain flexible because the needs of the crowd change.

Focus

See Vision, Leadership

The ability to maintain unbroken concentration is the secret of strength in all of the affairs of men. You become exhausted in your efforts because of wrong focus.

To splinter your focus is to destroy your cause.

Your attention is drawn to what you value.

Staying focused is the only thing that keeps your edge sharp. This is the problem with too many activities. They first draw your attention, then they draw the life giving force from within. What is difficult about this is that you have to separate the good from the good. If you are going to accomplish a task of excellence, it requires your heart and soul. Only from that kind of focus comes passion. If you lose this, the task at hand

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will lose its luster and vitality because it is not sustained by the life force that comes from your focus.

Two visions will kill your momentum and you will cease to strive for the crown.

Focus on your dreams and you begin to live. Focus on your regrets and you begin to die.

The focus of your life should not be to have or not to have. These are smoke screens to distract you. Rather it should be to do the will of the Father.

Focus helps set your agenda. It easily brings your energy level up. It sparks those around you, for they are naturally drawn to a cause. It helps you prepare. It helps overcome obstacles and dry places. It directs your intensity in faith.

Focus takes you where you want to go. Actually, it is focus that has brought you to where you are now.

Food Chain

I believe that the food chain really works and the weak get eaten by the strong. That is just the way it is. You must strengthen yourself.

Forgetting

Learn what to forget and do it. Determine what to remember and do it. Otherwise you will become a slave to circumstances that you cannot change.

Forgiveness

God is not just a God of a second chance. He is much more than that. He is a God of loving kindness and tender mercy. He is gentle in all of His dealings toward us.

Pride will keep you from forgiving someone even when you want to do so. It will become a prison of regrets. It is a very lonely place to spend your last days.

Forgiveness is a decision and not a feeling. If you wait for feelings to lead, you will find yourself manipulated by the wounds of your heart. Decide now to forgive and release your prisoners. You will feel better for it.

The best way to forgive is to remember what you have been forgiven. Christ forgave you everything. What are man's little indiscretions in light of that?

To forgive others is the first step in helping them forgive themselves. This is why God is so quick to forgive, even to the extent of providing for it in advance. Always be prepared to forgive.

The decision to forgive should be made in advance.

Forgiveness is a spiritual dialogue between the created and his creator.

Freedom

See Flags, Liberty

The price of freedom is not cheap. It is always purchased with blood.

Seeds of Life

Friendship

See Relationships

Make new friends, but cherish the old.

Show respect to your friends and be enthusiastic about their accomplishments. The reward of all accomplishments is the appreciation of your peers and friends.

If a friend is worth having, he is worth defending.

What is sweeter than a friend in the day of trouble? He will strengthen your hand and impart courage to your heart.

A little loving attention can heal a wounded friendship.

Nothing warms the heart like taking a walk with an old friend.

Be gracious and faithful enough to disbelieve an evil report about your friend when it comes to you.

The greatest gift you can receive from your friend is loyalty.

To lend money can make an enemy out of a friend.

Friends last longer the less you use them.

There is no such thing as a faultless friend, but, loyalty and love cover them.

Because of famine comes the solitary, but wealth and abundance bring many companions.

Be especially attentive to the silent cry of your friend. Even if they don't mean to do so, they will reach out for help when they are in trouble. Learn to recognize their need and reach out to them.

My heart says to my friend, "I do not have a home at which you are not welcome."

Only equals can make friends.

Frustration

Frustration is contagious.

When you find yourself frustrated, stop what you are doing and sit down. Take a few deep breaths and think it through. Most of the time it is not that everything is going wrong, it is just going wrong at the same time. Now is the time to rethink the priorities of your project and take one thing at a time. Usually you are frustrated because you cannot see clearly. When your vision clears, frustration normally disappears.

Future

See Planning

Deal with the present and trust in the future.

Sometimes you have to let go of your security to embrace your future.

For the most part, the future is uncharted territory. Explore it to its fullest extent.

G

Gambling

Generosity

Genius

Gentlemen

Gifts

Giving

Glory

Gluttony

Goals

God

Golf

Goodness

Gossip

Government

Gratitude

Greatness

Greed

Grief

Guidance

Guilt

Gullibility

Gun Control

Gambling

See Greed

Unbridled compulsion is at the heart of all gambling.

Don't bet on things of the heart.

The best way to beat Vegas is don't go.

The race is not to the swiftest, nor the battle to the strongest, but that is the best way to bet.

Generosity

Generosity consists of more than the sum of what was given, but the manner in which it was given” Don't give gifts, whether large or small, without first wrapping them up in love and courage and forgiveness and hope!

Genius

Genius takes its own course. It always has and always will. To force conformity is to close off the gateway to creativity and expansion.

Gentlemen

See Manners

Let the greater of gentleman keep silent and the argument will lose its momentum.

To walk and live with the grace and refinement of a gentleman should be the goal and ambition of every man.

Seeds of Life

Gifts

The gifts of God work to their highest ability from a giving heart.

Giving

Giving money does not exclude you from responsibility.

Giving is a principle of necessity in our life. It does several things. For one, it keeps us from being immersed in self-interest and helps us to see the bigger picture. It declares that there is enough to meet the need and moves us from fear into faith. Since the material with which we become charitable represents our time, talent and energy, and giving is a spiritual principle, giving enables us to spiritualize our life and our material substance. Giving ties the spiritual and the material together. Without charity, material gain becomes a deceptive, ultimate symbol of Idolatry. Charity reaches out to others and transforms diversity into unity.

You can judge the commitment of those with whom you work by how much they give to your project.

Prayer is not the seed for finance.

Give freely of your own and don't covet what belongs to another.

Fragrance abides with the one who gives flowers to the brokenhearted.

Although there cannot always be equal giving within a group or team, our responsibility calls for equal sacrifice.

Give of yourself to others and your fruit will not be hidden.

A person's money leaves you just before they do.

Glory

The meaning of glory keeps changing addresses.

Gluttony

See Compulsion

The last thing any person needs is “all you can eat.”

You either count calories before or after you eat them, but you do count them.

Goals

See Vision, Planning

Can you think of at least 20 things that you would like to accomplish before you retire from the stewardship of this life? Write them down and try to make them part of your New Year's resolutions.

The purpose of a goal is not just to have another idea or challenge. It is to capture the spirit of the heart, to live life at its peak, and to raise expectancy to its highest height and there build a dream. The goals themselves are merely tools to release the treasure within you. The journey along the way is where you live your life. Don't stop dreaming. Don't stop setting goals.

If you know your long-term goals, you will recognize short-term opportunities.

Seeds of Life

God

See Miracles, Worship, Love, Prayer, The Ministry, Reality

God is a good father. He speaks to every one of His children on their own level.

God is a hopeless romantic.

God is divine and we are all channels for divine expression.

I know that it is difficult to see God for who He really is in the midst of an agonistic world where His reality seems obscured. You might ask why He would create the world in such a manner where we perceive our world as the only real reality and the Spirit world as the unreal. God did this by design. He obscured His authorship to allow us to make independent choices. Without the ability to make an independent choice, we would be nothing more than a mechanical doll or a puppet. Think about it. If we actually saw God in His reality, there would be no debate, choice, or faith. So, we see that God created this lower world which is obscured from His full reality and we see ourselves as the only reality or worse, the architect. This gives us the power to decide, and the power to decide gives the ability to fellowship with God on the level that He desires. That could only be achieved in this lower, darkened world where His reality seems unreal and He is obscured. This is a flat, one dimensional, darkened, almost plastic world where we carry out our independent existence. The only true meaning to life is when we integrate His reality into our lives by letting His love flow through us.

God created you to be an instrument of pleasure for Himself.

We become our perception of God.

When pressure hits, you will either thank God or accuse Him.

A man who rejects God does so in total ignorance, for he does it on the basis of a false or even worse, no definition of God. God is indescribable and indefinable. After many years of serving Him, I have gleaned only a small glimpse of His infinite glory. Therefore, I perceive that a man who is darkened in spirit, who has never tasted of His goodness can have no understanding of Him. Therefore it is illogical to reject Him.

The question of God and the perception of Him is at the heart of all human behavior.

We have judged God and the way he is suppose to act purely on the basis of our understanding of Him. Therefore, to be like Him, you have to act like me.

Visualization is a very important part of an engaged spiritual life.

Spiritual awareness is a practice that actively engages the realm beyond the senses. However it is not limited to that. It also includes the physical body and the mind, will and emotions. The natural realm is sub-awareness on a one-dimensional plain.

An atheist must be very proud of himself to think that there could never be anything beyond his comprehension or understanding. What is more fascinating than the belief that there is no God is the arrogance of the man that would suggest that nothing could exist beyond his understanding. It is the suggestion that he is the watermark for all comprehension. It is a statement of ignorance and infallibility.

You are a vessel containing two worlds. You are like a dam that is wet on one side and dry on the other. You have the right and access into both worlds. The human is the only conduit that bridges both worlds. Few ever practice their spirituality and therefore are usually blind to it.

Seeds of Life

I was thinking that when new planets are discovered in our solar system, it seems to change the way we respond to and think of the universe. This is the same principle we apply when we consider our spiritual development. Although God doesn't change, when we see a side of him we have not seen before, it changes how we look at and respond to spiritual things.

I am finding that many of the words that the Lord gave me that I considered for someone else was actually for me.

When a person truly directs himself to God, God will reveal Himself to him and he will reflect the image of God in a way that no other person can.

If you really believe that God is all that He says that He is, isn't it a subtle form of atheism to worry about things that you have no control over?

Oh, the multitudes who have never tasted His sweetness, and, here I sit feasting like a man at a banquet table.

God's connection with man is a love, prayer, and faith connection.

Don't be impatient with those that are around you. God is a good father. He speaks to every one of His children on their level.

One of the greatest and most glorious moves of God will be the grafting back of the natural branches. It will be beautiful.

Only when we understand the word "absolute" can we get a glimpse into what God is. To see the expanse between cold and absolute cold is

to begin to understand the impact of what I am saying. God is absolute love. He is absolute goodness and kindness. He is absolute wisdom.

As soon as we feel we deserve the grace of God, then we are on a barren path.

There is knowledge of the love of God, but I have found that there is an experience that passes knowledge. Be ready, it may be an experience that you do not have a doctrine for.

The viewer must have some knowledge or education about art before they can thoroughly appreciate its rendering. Even so, it is impossible for the imperfections of carnal humanity to truly admire the character and person of God. He is too vast and too beautiful.

To lose the presence of God from your life is to lose the very essence of life itself. There is nothing more precious or dear; nothing compares to its value or importance. His presence is life itself. Apart from His presence, there is no meaning. I would rather die than to lose the anointing of God on my life.

Jesus is the lover of my soul. To find intimacy with him is to find the sweet essence and treasure of life. Those who have not fallen in love with Him can never understand.

Intimacy and fellowship with God are the heart of meaning and purpose. Everything else is subsequent. If you don't know these court ceremonials, how can you worship the King?

I have received a double portion of God's loving kindness.

Seeds of Life

I find no fixed or un-crossable boundaries to spiritual growth and development.

The ultimate goodness of God is the giving of Himself.

All the paths of God are loving-kindness.

God does not grade on a curve. He demands righteousness through Jesus Christ.

God has but one need, to be loved and adored by His children.

To be a favorite of God, do what He does and be interested in what He's interested in.

You can only minister God to another person to the degree that He has been revealed to you. Spend time with Him and you will carry His fragrance wherever you go.

You don't find religion without pride.

Providence means "provided for in advance." When I look at the providence of God, it gives me great comfort.

The joy of the Lord is not just an amusement of the mind. It is a river.

I had a dream that deeply touched me and even disturbed me. I dreamed that I was in a house and was pre-occupied with and surrounded by books and plans. I was busy. Jesus came to the front door. I started gathering a few things I had around me and in my lap to go to the door.

It seemed that His presence radiated through the wall like fire and totally consumed me. As I walked for the door, everything I had been thinking, all of my doctrinal opinions and viewpoints seemed to melt as I felt His presence radiating through me. Nothing mattered but Him. It was such an incredible experience. All of the opinions and philosophies I had been gathering seemed to melt away like fog when the sun hits it. All I could think was that I wanted Him. It was so real that it seemed to exceed the Dream State. It was a dream I think, but it was real.

The Internet is available to everyone who has the right tools, but it must be engaged. Your limitations then disappear into a sea of information. Most people never learn to engage that awareness. They have lived for so long from the surface, the thought of living from the inside out is inconceivable.

Golf

I have never seen a sport that revealed so much to me about me and my conduct in life.

I have found that the people who cannot be honest on the golf course with their score card usually have that same problem in life. They have trouble being honest with themselves. The parallel is incredible.

If you are unwilling to change, you will never move to the next level of life. Don't be stubborn in the way that you do things.

No one hits the ball as far as they think they do. Learn to be real with yourself.

In golf as in life, you cannot always tell what you are doing wrong. You need someone to help watch and correct your flaws. Only pride would keep you from letting someone do that. Always be open to instruction and constructive criticism.

Seeds of Life

When you stand on the tee box in whatever field of life that you find yourself, you sometimes have the jitters. Tell yourself that it is not fear but just excitement. Enjoy the moment. It is always a privilege. I have also reminded myself of this when I felt a bit nervous on stage.

Goodness

Goodness, kindness, decency and generosity all go hand and hand. These are virtues for which I would like to be remembered.

Gossip

See Criticism

To gossip is an indulgence because it makes you feel better. As with all indulgence, the primary focus is self.

Don't let anyone engage you in a conversation where your words can be used against you. Don't let anyone bait you into saying something that can be repeated and used as leverage against a friend. Otherwise, you will continually find yourself saying, "*What I meant to say was...*"

Never repeat a rumor that might hurt a man's reputation. It will leave you looking very small.

I don't hear gossip because I don't run with people who do it.

Mark the man who carries a tale, for from his belly comes confusion and every evil work. Like a disease, his tale will spread throughout the entire house or workplace and bring destruction or confusion to everyone who will listen.

The one who is willing to hear gossip will supernaturally draw the one who is willing to tell it.

Government

See Politics

Don't let the basis of your fellowship with other people be strife with the government.

Never allow anyone to take away your power to decide.

Any government who overextends and overrules its people will eventually have to do so with an iron fist.

Democracy has a flaw. The individual desires and self-interest of the masses can eventually crush the values and beliefs on which a society was established and birthed. Self-interest and greed can choke the standards of morality, rule, and justice. We must remember that the only government that can truly embrace the needs of both society and the individual is one that is built around the principles and commandments of God. His are the only true ethical values that promote respect for creation, authority, human life, and the rights of one another.

Never govern by polling.

The men in government object before they hear the other side, hence I perceive that truth is not their aim.

I am not completely opposed to stiff government control to provide leadership at the beginning of a project or program, I realize that things may for a short time need to be controlled with a strong arm, but we must wean ourselves from government control. No legislation should be open-ended. Our goal should always be to downgrade the grip of government.

Seeds of Life

Unless a government is forced to annually balance its budget, it will eventually reach the point of no return and face bankruptcy.

The more you feed the government, the more it grows. It is an animal whose only diet are rights and liberties. The bigger the government, the more rights it must consume to exist and maintain its strength. Soon it becomes a power unto itself, totally disregarding its intended purpose, which is to serve the needs and conscience of the people. It will by nature become all consuming and ever increasing. If left to its self, it will take over and become god-like, rather than the servant that it was created to be. The liberal politicians who survive by making government grow, along with special interest groups and bureaucrats are the feeders of this monster. They work within the system to manipulate their own agenda. Their only solution to any problem is, *"The government needs more control."* They truly believe that you don't know how to take care of yourself or your families. You don't know what is good for your businesses or communities. They eventually consume your rights and liberties until the seed of big government becomes an oak. Thomas Jefferson said it best, *"The best government governs least."*

The reason taxation is not the solution and eventually brings ruin is because the greed, compulsion and lack of common sense continues to create the need for more taxation.

Dependence on the government, just as it is with any other thing, depletes the independence of the individual to stand on their own two feet. The more government increases its oversight and control, the more incapable the masses become to live by their own strength. This creates co-dependence and should not inspire respect.

Free enterprise is the motivation for the movement of our economy.

If, according to Thomas Jefferson, it is tyranny to remove the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, would you say that the nature

of big government is guilty because our rights, liberties and pursuits are taken away one at a time through taxes, restrictions, and control? Let no one misunderstand. Our government as set up by our forefathers was a stroke of genius. It protects our individual rights and provides for our needs, but it must not exceed the borders of its role. If government control were at 100%, we would call it slavery. With no control there would certainly be anarchy. You can see this principle when you look at our rights and liberties in relation to taxes. The basic principal is this. The more taxes, the less freedom, and the less tax, the more freedom. We must have taxes in our society because we enjoy the things that it provides for us, such as roads and security. However, we must remember that government is only beneficial as long as it does not become the master.

What is the relationship between government and the people it serves? While it is true that government may voice the will of the majority, it also voices the greed, fear, and betrayal of the politicians and special interest groups who work through it. The government itself, which is only the vehicle that people have chosen to execute their will, is subject to abuse before the people have the opportunity to act through it. Too much of the time, men use government to carry out their own agendas. In the outset, people would not have consented to many of the measures adopted by government. We must constantly keep our government in check and as much as possible, continue to weed out those with their own agenda.

It is not the responsibility of the government to satisfy the needs of every person. Government doesn't have that capacity. They should certainly have a part in it, but the majority of the responsibility for the poor should be the local church. Actually, the church has dropped its responsibility and the government has had to pick it up. The church's commission is to feed the poor and lead them to God. The reason they don't is greed and fear.

Seeds of Life

As long as the lobby system remains as it is now, it will be very difficult to change Washington. The book should always be open on lobby reform.

A dysfunctional government is usually a reflection of its society.

Karl Marx believed that a democracy would succeed only until its citizens discover that they can vote themselves money from the treasury, then they would bankrupt it. I am sure that there are people who would endeavor to do just that, but overall, it is a very shallow and fearful concept. You must believe in yourselves and each other more than that. Belief and trust are pillars in the house of democracy.

Knowledge, wealth, and right are worthless if they are not used for the good of society at large.

The strength of our community and government is a commitment to our values, principles, and moral code. This is where the nature of a government is seen. These beliefs are what set the boundaries of our progress and advancement as a nation. While we strive to live to our fullest freedom, or as much as can be expected under a self-imposed authority, it is up to us to see to it that these things are not lost. We are responsible for our choices.

The boundaries of progress and advancement for any nation are shaped by the nature of its government.

Don't be alarmed if the government from time to time seems to go too far to the right or left. As long as the people do not vote control out of their hands, the political system has a way of eventually balancing itself out.

Government is Gods institution. The nature of government is godly and the nature of politics is satanic.

We must limit the power of the government and carefully monitor its movement, because even in the pursuit of liberty, minorities can be victimized by the majority. I have found that liberty is beyond government rule. Government is not the end of our pursuit; it is simply a guardian. We must remember that even a democratic government can destroy the liberties to which it was designed to protect, because the people who wield power in the government often do it to themselves at the expense of others. This can become a terrible abuse of power. Activist and zealots, in the name of the people, can through the government suppress the people and thereby cease to be for the people. Collective opinion does not necessarily bring about individual freedom. As a matter of fact, it can suppress it.

The only government that can bring an end to the conflict between individual rights verses the greater good of the community, is a righteous government based on ethical and Godly values. The role of government is to be a guardian to both sides.

Never let the government become your source. The nature of government will destroy your dependence on anything other than itself. That is the strength of its control. The result of this is that it destroys the precious substance of self-honor and the ability to sustain ones self. When this nation started, a group of men planned a way to destroy the strength, influence, and culture of the American Indian. The way they set out to do this was to take away their culture, language, and finally self-respect. This would make them totally dependent on the government as their source. They knew that it wouldn't be long until the American Indian would cease to exist. They almost accomplished their task, simply by taking away the land on which they could produce and placing them on a land that they could not farm. The government then provided their clothes, food, language and way to think. No government agency has the compassion to be God. And whether they intend to or not, they will trap you into a non-thinking, non-productive existence,

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and then control your every move. This is the danger of the welfare and health care system provided by the government today. It destroys the precious substance of self-reliance and the desire to get out of their loop. The nature of government is to become all consuming and all controlling. The American people must keep their government in check. It must remain an institution that is governed by the people and for the people. It is a wonderful servant, but a dominant and very dangerous master. It takes a decision to not trust them as your only source.

Never allow the “freedom of religion” to be changed to “freedom from religion.”

We must harness freedom and channel it to the world.

To understand the formation of a government system, you must understand the nature of its core belief and what makes it work. The fabric of a monarchy is love and respect. A dictatorship is fear and intimidation. Democracy is virtue.

The down side to Socialism is that there is no initiative to excel. Society may live, but they will cease to be alive. Socialism can only be carried out by a government that is completely interwoven into the fabric of every decision that its people make. The strength of Socialism can only be control and domination. Socialism does not understand the flaws of human nature and assumes that everyone is willing to participate and contribute.

While democracy is a self-imposed rule of law, that alone does not describe America. America is a democratic republic. The nature of a democratic republic is capitalism. That is where we see our entrepreneurial spirit in action. Capitalism promotes private ownership of property. It supports privately managed goods and services. You can have as much or as little as you want. This is the only way to run a government.

Liberty is the key word that sets America apart from all other forms of government.

America is an anomaly to the rest of the world.

The battle for the soul of America is going to be fought through the environment, using the Environmental Protection Agency as a tool. This agency must not be allowed to develop its own personal agenda.

The American Civil Liberties Union has tunnel vision, and it seems to have selective prosecution. Based on their track record, they appear to be an anti-Christian organization.

Impeachment is not designed to punish the President, but rather to protect the people. We must always be very careful when throwing around the word “impeachment.” It is not a club. To impeach a President would weaken and wound the soul of our country.

The office of the Presidency is more important than the occupant. Never do anything or say anything that undermines the respect for the office.

The ethics commission will work provided they can keep politics out. Only a man or woman who is totally non-bias could head up the ethics commission. Another danger that I see is that they do not end up in a witch-hunt in an attempt to justify their commission.

Tyranny draws from consent from the people and uses it to dominate them. What is interesting is same oppressive domination can eventually becomes a security blanket to the oppressed.

Seeds of Life

Freedom protects the viewpoint of those who are wrong as much as it does for those who are right.

Society at large will tolerate just about anything from its government officials as long as it puts money in their pocket. They will allow dishonesty, immorality, deception or corruption, as long as their comfort zone is unaffected. They will even turn their heads if it appears that their comfort will increase. However, if you encroach their comfort zone, and take something away from them, they will betray their closest ally.

It seems to me that our Embassies around the world are nothing more than cosmetic window dressing. They seem to be as impotent as the United Nations in almost every situation.

The passageway to a one world government is the United Nations. The means will be the monetary system.

Gratitude

See Thankfulness

Be a gracious receiver of gifts, but don't let your receiving outweigh your giving.

It is the work of a hypocrite and a fool to throw dirt into the well from which he drinks.

Say, "Thank You" in writing for every gift given to you.

Greatness

See Leadership

The whole forest is wrapped up in the seed.

Whether under the footstool or on the throne, greatness is in the heart of man and not in the position he holds.

Durability is the pathway to greatness.

The harder the times, the greater the opportunity for service. These desperate times are the fertile fields that expose greatness in men and women.

It is well known that champions are measured in the final quarter of competition. Don't quit, for the world is crying for a champion.

The price you are willing to pay determines the greatness that you will obtain. It is always paid in advance, and there is no line of credit. Carefully count the cost and set your budget. The price of greatness is time, talent, and energy.

The common denominator in all great men is that they don't quit.

Greatness is measured by humility, but is depleted by pride.

Emulate the qualities of great and holy men who have gone before you.

When I was young, I observed how men in positions of authority would mishandle people around them. They were rude, inconsiderate, and arrogant. I assumed that the bigger and more important someone was, the more they had a tendency to mistreat those who were under them. I found that this is not true. It is actually just the opposite. When you find someone who is at the top or is truly great, you will usually find someone who is attentive and kind to all men, even the ones who are obviously beneath them. He has nothing to prove. He is secure in who he is. So where does this arrogance come from? It comes from men who

Seeds of Life

try to achieve greatness by taking rather than giving. These are people who live in insecurity and uncertainty about who they are and try to express their imaginary greatness by beating their chest over the little people. They have an elitist contempt for others. There is nothing great about them. They mishandle people in their need to prove something to themselves. Always remember that greatness is determined by how you handle people. Kindness is the product of the strong, and cruelty a product of the weak.

Potential is only what a player believes he can achieve.

If you are to be truly great, humility must be the gage.

Jesus said that there had not risen a greater than John the Baptist, yet he did no great things by our standards. He wrote no books, had no possessions, and accomplished no great feats. Do we look to be a great person or do great things? I have done great deeds and felt no greater for it.

Greed

Don't miss the beauty of life by the pursuit of things.

To sacrifice your honor and sear your conscience is the finished work of greed.

Grief

See Counsel

In the heart of a child are the wonders of life, but grief brings hardness to the soul and blindness to the eyes.

If there were no grief, our whole value system would be different. There would be no remorse, only the mechanics of change. Our relationships would become unattached and hard-hearted. Mercy and compassion would be altogether different. The memories of our loss would be clinical and without feeling. God made us with the capacity to grieve. Our love and devotion compels us in that direction. Take time to grieve and then arise and embrace the living.

Grief is not a dirty word. It is part of the healing process that we go through when we face a loss or crisis. It is a very natural response when you suffer the loss of someone that you love. If this happens to you, let grief run its course, but no more than that. It is normal to have feelings, just don't be dominated and controlled by them. Don't be afraid of grief. If you lose someone, don't shut his or her memory out of your life. Share your thoughts and express your feelings about them. Remember the good times. Don't be afraid to laugh or cry. Most of all look to the Lord. He is faithful. Listen to what He promised that He would do. *"The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all of her ruins. He will make her deserts like Eden and her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing."* (Isaiah 51:3) God is looking on our ruins with compassion, and he is going to bring a restoration to your life if you will let him.

There are three phases to the restoration of a life. They are taken from the book of Nehemiah.

First, walk through the rubble of the city that is in ruins. This is the grieving process.

Second, on your next trip, see what can be kept and what ruins must be discarded. This is a time of sorting everything out. You are choosing what must stay and what must go.

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Third, return and rebuild. It won't be long until that thing that you have grieved over has become a treasured memory held close to your heart.

Grief and sorrow can become addictive.

Being devastated is a waste of time.

Guidance

We must learn to live from the inside out.

I always heard that if it seems that you are rubbing the fur the wrong way, turn the cat around. Listen to your heart. Everything within you will be contrary when your plans are facing the wrong direction.

Illumination is the key to desire, and desire is the pathway to new doors. New doors take you to a new realm, which again brings illumination. Wisdom and understanding are the keys to abiding.

Guilt

If you have a problem with guilt, then find out why and repent. Cuddling guilt is dangerous to everything that concerns you. It will prevent you from ever boldly facing the future.

Gullibility

Don't always take everything at face value. Sometimes you are seeing a mask.

While I don't hold to the "Chicken Little" philosophy as a way of life, I do believe that if something hits you on the head, you should look up. There is a healthy side to paranoia.

It is possible to be right in your heart and wrong in your head. You can do the wrong thing for the right reason and hurt yourself and everyone else concerned. Be careful whom you follow into battle.

Gun Control

I have heard the argument about gun control from both sides. I am inclined to believe that the necessity to bear arms in the 21st century is not the same as it was a hundred years ago. We live in a totally different culture. For the most part, we don't hunt our food nor do we normally protect our property with our own weapons. That is why we hire policemen. I am not at all opposed to a man owning guns. But on the other hand, I see no reason for allowing the flood of high-powered weapons into our civilized communities. They can serve but one purpose.

As long as American democracy remains, guns will always be a part of this culture. That will never change. The closest thing to real gun control is to find the criminals that use them and lock them up all the days of their natural life.

H

Habits

Happiness

Haste

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Healing

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Habits

Bad habits must be interpreted as a flaw of weakness and frailty in our character. Otherwise, we will never change.

First, we form our habits then our habits form us.

Without proper habits, you will not accomplish very much in life.

Like a thread that is interwoven and connected throughout your whole being, everything in your life is related and connected to each other. The way you act in one area reflects the way you are in others.

One habit is overcome by another.

Beware of anything that you have to take to feel good. You will soon have to take it to keep from feeling bad.

Happiness

A true song is a condition of the heart not circumstances.

If all that we care about is our own happiness, then we will never be happy. You sow to your own happiness through giving.

Haste

See Compulsion

Resist the temptation to give hasty advice. To cause haste in another man's affairs is to be an enemy to his soul.

Seeds of Life

Don't be hasty to link up with another person's business idea. What works on paper seldom works in the market place.

Don't be pressured with haste in giving an important answer.

Hatred

People who hate become the worst people in the world.

Hatred is a vicious prison.

Hatred must be fed to maintain any strength.

Beware of any man who brings or sustains hatred between the races, for he will destroy and enslave you. You will find that his motives are seldom pure. Do not trust anything he says, for even the truth he might speak has been manipulated and contaminated with his poison.

Don't allow contempt to be in your heart for any man.

Everyone loves to hate someone. If you listen to them long enough, they will tell you who it is.

Health

Every cell of your body is waiting for instruction.

What good is your wealth if it cost you your health? It will certainly cost you all of your wealth to regain it.

The condition of the body is an attitude of the revelation of the mind.

I want to be physically, emotionally, financially, and socially healthy. I want to function in all of these areas without any sense of handicap or limitation. For example, I don't have to be rich, but I do want to be financially healthy. I want my relationships to be healthy relationships. I want to be connected socially in a way that is mutually healthy for everyone concerned.

Continually develop hobbies and interest with which you are unskilled or unfamiliar. Studies are proving that mental exercise and intellectual activity stimulate the mind and cause the neurons in your brain to branch by building new circuitry for the function of the brain. This is especially important if your brain suffers damage such as a stroke or Alzheimer's disease. It develops surplus brain tissue that actually compensates for damaged tissue by creating new routes to get around the roadblock or damaged area and resume the function of that area. For instance, your chances of recovery from a stroke would largely depend on the brain's ability to redesign its self and grow new routes of communication. Becoming active in areas that are unfamiliar to you does this. We must interest ourselves in areas that we have no aptitude. If something challenges your brain, it serves as a stimulus for the neurons to carry new messages around the roadblock or damaged area. It does away with the two-lane highway and creates a much broader road system with a complex network of roads that are not stopped or hindered by one roadblock. Interact with intelligent people. Take up activities that make you think. Turn off the television because you do not think when it is on. It thinks for you. Your brain is a wonderful tool and has the ability to overcome great obstacles if you will train it to do so. Life is not a spectator sport. It is, as they say, "no pain, no gain." Try the game "Jeopardy," or do crossword puzzles. Place a demand on your brain. You will find inner resources that will astound you and cause you to walk in health.

Breathing affects you emotions just as your emotions affect your breathing. Breathe deeply for 25 to 50 times a day. The oxygen will do wonders for your brain and overall health. Do this in the morning and in the evening.

Seeds of Life

Healing

See Bible, God, Health, Belief

The Word of God is the highest truth because it is anchored in another realm. All other knowledge is beneath and must bow its knee to what the Word of God has said concerning me.

There is a direct link between our belief system and our immune system. Both fear and faith activates it.

When it comes to healing, a proper attitude and a healthy dose of optimism is medicine indeed.

We are partners with God in the well being and health of our bodies. We have a part in our healing process.

The absence of support from family or friends has a strong negative effect on the recovery from sickness and disease. When social ties are missing, we lack an important ingredient that we need to sustain our health. The touch of a caring family is essential to our well being. It releases the strength and will to recover.

God's healing power does not come on the body. It is a spiritual force that is released from within. *Proverbs 4:20-23 tells us to "protect the heart, for out of it flow the forces of life."* The life force flows from the Spirit. It is not a treatment. God does not reach toward symptoms.

A cheerful attitude plays a great role in the healing process.

The greatest misconception in the scripture about healing is the word "Recover". You know the scripture. "You shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover". Unfortunately our attitude about receiving healing is very limited in what we see at the moment we are prayed for.

But that is not how healing works. I have seen miracles like that but healing is different. Healing is a process most of the time. A wound begins to heal and after a time you realize that the healing has occurred. Here is the application. There are sick people whose body is not healing as it should. Prayer for them is the catalyst that goes to the root of the problem and corrects the problem so it can heal. Sometimes that healing is accelerated and sometimes it is not. After they are prayed for they should go on with their life and as they go the healing is occurring. They shall recover. Spend this time in Thanksgiving to the Lord for what He has done. Protect what is being done with your faith and confession. Don't dismiss what God is doing simply because you don't see it at that moment.

When believing for your healing, don't judge what God will or won't do based on what you see happening in other people. This will open the door to fear and despair. What they receive is between them and God. What you receive is between you and God. You don't know what is really in their heart. Make the quality decision to look only at the Word of God and base every decision and emotion on what He has said. Let the Word of God be the final authority in your life.

The Heart

If something is growing in your heart, it will need to be fed certain things to continue to grow. Certain plants need certain nutrients. You will feel drawn to whatever feeds whatever you have planted. If you have planted lust, hatred, or prejudice, you will be drawn to that which feeds it. When you grow the right kind of things, it gives you the right kind of hunger. You are drawn to feed whatever is planted in your heart. In the physical when your body needs certain things, you will crave certain things. That is why you listen to certain music. You need to feed that.

The flow from your life is like the overflowing river that finds its own way. Just let it go.

Seeds of Life

Like the heart, the ground doesn't know the difference between an apple seed or watermelon seed. It just grows what you put in there.

Heritage

Life is a relay race. I have always heard that any relay is won or lost in the transfer of the baton. In life, I have come to the conclusion that I don't care how fast my children run or how many possessions they obtain. If I can't successfully pass the heritage of the God that I love and serve to my children, then I have failed. This is the burden that I bear. I can think of nothing more important.

Wherever you sit is the best seat in the house. It is all for you.

The heritage I want to leave my children is a house of wisdom. Isaiah 59:21

In my opinion, the greatest generation in the history of mankind, are the parents who came through World War II. They were totally self-sacrificing, expecting nothing in return. They worked hard because they were supposed to do so. They did it because it was right. Their qualities are very special and should be emulated.

Heroism

See Bravery

When I saw the Kamikaze pilots in World War II, I realized that sometimes the desperate search for honor leads a man to madness.

We are all pretty incredible if you catch us at the right time.

Hesitation

See Delay

Upon the plains of hesitation bleached the bones of countless millions, who at the point of victory, sat down to wait, and waiting died. (My father told me this when I was just a boy. I never forgot it)

For you who hesitate, life is over before you get started. Oh you who stand over your full cup, what are you waiting for?

To pause to listen to praise or criticism will cause you to stall in your journey. Be deaf to both.

History

See Books

Don't be too quick to swallow everything that you are told about history. Know your source.

Make the decision to occasionally look at important historical documents. It affirms the foundation of our beliefs.

If we don't examine our history, and recognize the mistakes of our fathers, we are doomed to repeat them. Success leaves a trail, so does failure.

Honesty

See Integrity

To be "basically honest", means that you don't lie unless you have to do so.

Seeds of Life

Though many people say, “be honest with me,” don’t believe them. There is a time and a place for correction.

One of the greatest phrases you can learn is, “I don’t know.”

Honor

See Integrity

When truth becomes precious, honor becomes visible.

Never be guilty of “breach of promise” on any level.

Honor is the delegation of authority. To honor your father and mother is to give them authority over yourself. To rebel against someone is to dishonor him or her.

Over commitment results in temporary problems and setbacks which become long-term lifestyles.

It is better to deserve honor and not possess it than to possess it and not deserve it.

Hope

See Belief, Trust

To deprive a man of his hope is to put out his eyes.

Never, never, never be guilty of quenching another man’s hope.

Even if a tree has been cut down, there is hope that it will sprout again, because the scent of water will cause it to bud once more. Don’t give up

when you feel that you have been cut down. All you need is the scent of hope to rise again.

Hope is not just blind optimism.

Reach down and revive hope. Dreams exist on the foundation of hope.

Hospitality

See Kindness

Always stand up and greet people who come into your office and always walk with them to the door when they leave.

If you start talking at the same time as someone else, be gracious enough to be the first to stop. To overpower someone by walking on their conversation is rude and shows a lack of restraint on your part.

When visitors leave your house, always walk them to your door and wave good-bye.

Try to allow people to have more than one first impression. If they are nervous, you might not see who they really are.

When friends come over to visit, turn off the television.

To remain seated while being introduced to someone is to send out signals that you don't wish to be bothered. Always rise, step forward, and smile. While introducing yourself extend your hand and say something like "I am delighted to meet you Mister Johnson." If you don't understand someone's name while being introduced, don't be afraid to ask him or her to repeat it. They won't mind saying it again.

Seeds of Life

Never allow yourself to continue in a conversation with someone when you do not understand their words or meaning. It is very embarrassing to engage in conversation with someone and have him or her find out that you were not hearing them. No one likes to feel humored like that.

Bless your host when you enter his home and let the blessings of peace be in your mouth.

Humility

Humility fits a wise man well.

Don't always take a title to heart. This is a great test of life.

A wise man of diplomatic strength will concede to be instructed in things he already knows.

If you have to show someone your humility, then you most likely do not possess it.

Humility is the God given, self-assurance that eliminates the need to prove to others the worth of who you are and the righteousness of what you do.

The Lord gives grace to the humble.

Humility is grateful dependence of God. It is a realistic approach to our strengths and weaknesses.

Anyone who is arrogant and insensitive enough to walk into a room and take the best seat is either the chairman of the board or he is on his way to the unemployment line.

Humor

See Laughter

The comedian has the ability to make you lose control for a few minutes. What a nice job to have.

Hunting

See Hunting

When the predator makes the prey extinct, the end of the predator is at hand.

Husband and Wife

See Relationships

No two people on the face of the earth have the power to link-up like a husband and wife. There is an unseen connection between the two that is unstoppable.

Hypocrisy

I marvel at how people are shocked and grieved at the tragic death of a three month old baby, when only eight months earlier, they defended the murder of the same child. Hypocrisy knows no bounds.

Don't commit to something that you are not willing to embrace with your whole heart, particularly if it is an important issue. It will draw you into hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is brought on by putting yourself under a standard which was not your own and convictions to which you are not committed. How can you faithfully hold to something that your heart does not love?

I

Identity	Innocence
Idleness	Insight
Ignorance	Insignificance
Impossibilities	Inspiration
Imagination	Instability
Imitations	Instruction
Inaction	Integrity
Inconsistency	Intentions
Inconvenient	Intimacy
Indecision	Intimidation
Independence	Insight
Influence	Inventions
Injustice	Investments

Identity

All issues in our life stem from identification.

Your identity cannot be in what others might think about you. Your identity must be rooted in the understanding of who you are by birth or delegation.

Other people's acceptance of you must not be the source of your confidence or identity. The well of who we are, must be deeper than the acceptance of others. Also, the acceptance of yourself cannot be based on the acceptance of others. Your identity must be a deep enough well to go against the system.

When self worth is only found in others acceptance, then our life becomes a acceptance-based performance. The erosion of our potential is there.

Idleness

See Diligence

The idle hand will cause a healthy plan to starve to death before your eyes.

Ignorance

I can handle ignorance in a person. We have all been there. It is stupidity that tries us all.

Impossibilities

I have nothing to say about this. I don't believe in it, and it is something that is not a part of our life. It should never be brought up when we plan.

Seeds of Life

We are the dreamers of dreams. We are the makers of music. There are no impossibilities.

Imagination

See Creativity

Always allow your imagination to wander. It helps you see that you are a part of something that is bigger than yourself.

Imagination is one of the most powerful features of mankind. Sometimes it is not what you do or show, it is what you leave out or keep hidden. Letting people use their imagination allows them to become more emotionally involved. If you let a person's imagination work, they will exceed anything that you could ever do through your efforts. When the imagination is lost, so is the curiosity and intrigue. If you don't do this with your mate, you will soon become bored in the area of your intimacy and relationship.

Imitations

Imitations are fine until you find yourself, but then it must be abandoned. Otherwise, it will steal the freshness of your creativity, and you will follow instead of lead.

Success leaves a trail.

When you start out, copy what you know until you achieve your own voice.

Imitation is part of the growing process.

Imitation is at least 50% of our creative process.

Inaction

Don't complain about your situation if you are unwilling to act.

Incompetence

Isn't it interesting that most incompetent people don't know that they are incompetent? As a matter of fact, most of these people are so confident in what they cannot do that they are more confident than those who are actually good at what they do. How many things have we been "bad" at and we just did not know it? Unfortunately, if we are not competent enough to recognize that we are incompetent then we blissfully go through life doing inferior work.

Inconsistency

See Hesitation

The stutter step of inconsistency in people has been the cause of failure, probably more than any of us realize.

Inconvenience

Sometimes blessing and the will of God can be disguised as inconvenience. Be very hesitant to complain.

Indecision

See Hesitation, Inaction

Learning to make a decision and then live with that decision is a very important test of your life and leadership.

I have found that if my question seems timid, everyone becomes an authority.

Seeds of Life

Most of the time, indecision comes because you have not thought a situation through.

Indecision is torment.

I find indecision to be one of the most frustrating things that I can experience. If you are not careful, you will just pick and choose because of the pressure of the moment.

Most of the time, indecision comes because you have not thought a situation through. The greatest cure for indecision is getting alone in a quiet place and listening to your heart. And next to that would be to seek the counsel from someone you trust.

Practice making decisions by asking your self questions:

What happens if I don't do this?

Which situation will have the greatest impact?

What do I like the most?

What would my mentor do?

One final thought. When it comes to the welfare of the people around you, take time to work through your decisions. Don't let pressure force you into being impetuous. It is better to suffer the consequences for a short time of a late decision than dealing with the regret of a hasty, wrong decision. Once you have made your decision, be firm with it.

Independence

See Unity

There are no independent building blocks. We are all linked.

It's one thing to be called an adult; it's something else to transition into independence. As a parent, it is important that you don't squelch the independence of your young adults, for it is a path that they all must walk if they are to survive.

Influence

See Leadership

It is very difficult and sometimes impossible to change your behavior unless you are willing to change the crowd with which you associate.

The greater the mass, the greater the gravitational pull. Grow from within and others will be drawn to you.

Environment has a power of its own. It makes us what we are. The power of environment creates criminals and presidents.

We are all subject to the influence of others. You cannot hide from that. You simply must make the determination that you will overcome it.

Being thought to have influence is one of the surest ways of obtaining it.

Injustice

Sometimes men confuse injustice with discomfort and opposition. If we are not careful, we will become cry babies and the term "injustice" will become a lifelong crutch. To become a martyr is a good excuse to not apply yourself to the challenges of life that are in front of you. In short, life is full of injustice. What makes the difference between a stepping stone and a stumbling stone is how high you lift your feet.

Stamp out injustice wherever you find it. Have it arrested or vote it out of office.

Seeds of Life

Innocence

Innocence, now that is a beautiful thought.

Insight

Insight is better than hindsight. Live from the inside out.

Insight is a condition of the spirit, not the intellect.

I don't believe that hindsight is always 20/20.

The eyes of the heart see all. Learn to trust what you see.

Insignificance

Be very careful what you call insignificant because most of the time you will be wrong. It is the little foxes that spoil the vine.

Even things that seem insignificant should be carefully examined for it is a gift of God. Everything has significance.

Inspiration

See Creativity

Write down your moments of inspiration, for when they are passed, you will not remember them.

Fellowship and communication is important to inspiration and revelation.

Instability

Instability cannot be hidden. It is eventually seen by all.

Instruction

If we have the wisdom to receive, all men may teach us their virtues.

There are three positions in life: students, disciples, and teachers.

The stepping stones of life are vision, obedience, discipline, commitment, and courage.

Read the instructions before you start. You will save time, money, stress, and embarrassment. You also might learn something.

When we succeed, we tend to party, but in failure we tend to ponder. A wise man will receive instruction from every event.

Find a coach. Find someone who can speak into your life. Every great athlete has a coach who analyzes him. Never shut yourself off from instruction no matter how great you get. Instruction is the doorway for promotion.

In times of correction and discipline, try to inspire rather than criticize.

Integrity

Never follow money or position over integrity and honor.

Integrity should not be worn as a badge simply for others to see, but rather as a marker for others to follow.

Seeds of Life

A man without honor and integrity is broken and ravished. His nakedness will be seen by all, and his shame cannot be healed.

Integrity is purchased with a life of faithfulness, truthfulness, and consistency.

Integrity is purchased, honor is given, but when they are lost, they will not be regained.

It takes a lifetime to buy integrity and a foolish moment to sell it. It is always sold cheaper than it was purchased.

Truth and honor bring integrity. Be honorable and truthful with all people. If you break it, fix it. If you use it, bring it back in better shape. If you give your word or sign a contract, by all means, follow through on your word. Let your word be your bond. Have integrity and model it.

Explanations and excuses are a reproach to honor.

Demand integrity of yourself, and when you find it in others, reward them.

The end result of the path of least resistance is a crooked stream and a crooked heart.

Carefully count the cost and check your calendar before you give your word.

Integrity and honor should be your compass in life.

Integrity is measured as much, if not more, by your dealings with the small things than the large things.

The integrity of a company is no greater than the least of its supervisors, for it is at that level where they take advantage of the consumer. If the service manager is dishonorable, it might just as well be the president of the company, for the consumer has lost. But in the long run, so has the president. It is vital that the president of the company not lose his communication with his middle management.

The integrity of the servant is seen most when the master leaves the house.

Intentions

Intentions are a lazy and slothful person's excuse for doing nothing.

Intimacy

See Relationships, Sexuality

The word "intimacy" might best be described, "into me see." It is to become vulnerable to another.

Intimidation

Intimidation comes when you are either not in your place or you are uncertain of your place.

Intolerance

Intolerance of certain things is a right. I have the right not to be tolerant of others because they are different, weird or make stupid decisions.

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Insight

Those who have the insight to be in touch with each other's emotional worlds will be the most successful.

Inventions

Inventions are always driven by an engine of some kind. For instance, the space program was the engine for computers, as we know them today. Our push for exploration in space is not solely beneficial to the space program. It opens the door to many new ideas and inventions that have nothing to do with the space program. The breakthrough of the transistor came by the push to hurry and beat the Russians to the moon. Out of that they came up with the integrated circuit which led to the downsizing of the entire computer concept. Then came the microprocessor, which changed the world forever. Although it is always expensive to move forward, especially in areas like the space program, the prize is usually an unexpected breakthrough in technology. It yields a harvest of knowledge, resources, and advancement that is useful in many other areas of life. Our needs are the engine that will produce creativity.

Investments

If you want to really make good investments, make them in people.

Never invest in what you cannot see.

There are two things that you can do with your time and money, spend them or invest them.

A home is a wise investment. The reward is more than money. Also remember that location is very important.

Never let there be a time when at least a small part of your money is not going into the investment of land or something that will not lose its

value. I have let years and dollars slip through my hands without investing and I don't know why.

God said in Deuteronomy 28:8 that He would bless your storehouse. How can He do that if you do not have one? Set at least 10% aside from each paycheck and put into that storehouse. If people offer to give you something that you do not need, do not turn it down. Put it in your storehouse and the opportunity to be a blessing to someone will arise.

J

Jealousy

Joking

Judging

Justice

Jealousy

Don't despise those who are new. Usually they carry the more fresh and creative ideas. Learn from everyone you see.

There is no prison that is so cruel as jealousy

God put gifts in others so you could enjoy them. Don't let jealousy spoil your view.

Joking

Remember that there are always two sides to every joke. One side is not always funny. Remember that before you open your mouth, for it could leave you looking very small.

It seems that all jokes are degrading to someone. Never tell a joke that you could not tell if the person of whom you were joking were standing in front of you. Preferably, let the joke be on you.

Judging

See Debate

A man without understanding judges by the outward appearance, and he seldom sees beyond the surface of the matter.

It is foolish to draw final conclusions as long as there is information that is missing.

Reserve judgment until the root is seen.

Things aren't always as they seem. Don't be hasty to judge another.

Seeds of Life

Before you judge anyone, ask yourself this question. What price did I pay for them that gives me the right to make a judgment over their life?

The problem with our judgment is that we judge people through our fears.

We tend to judge ourselves by our intentions and others by their actions.

True judgment is considerate of circumstances.

He that is prejudice is void of judgment. Prejudice is the product of a lazy mind. It is conclusion without investigation.

If a man steals because he is hungry, that is one thing. If he steals because he is dishonorable, with no scruples, then the penalty for stealing was not enough. His dishonor goes deeper than that. The penalty for stealing does not address the crime of dishonor. Unfortunately, if you put stripes on the back of a fool, afterward he is still a fool. Therefore, the penalty against him seems ineffective. Judgment must go to the heart of the matter.

When I judge someone, I tend to be the standard that I use. Therefore, I question whether I can make righteous judgment.

Justice

As difficult as it is, try to never be guilty of giving a man justice. Let mercy and kindness go before you.

Justice cannot be served when laws are absolute.

K

Kindness

Kissing

Knowledge

Seeds of Life

Kindness

Kindness disarms the strongest of men.

Don't add to a person's load by telling them that they look tired or worn down.

The waiter didn't cook the food. Show some restraint.

Never forget to praise people who help you behind the scenes.

If you are invited to a function, don't talk about your invitation with someone who wasn't invited.

Kissing

See Husband and Wife

Take time to kiss your mate. It says more to them than you think.

Knowledge

Knowledge is the key to any door.

Knowledge is not the destination. The experiencing of it is.

The true test of knowledge is the ability to recycle and present it in a more relevant form.

Knowledge is useless unless it is applicable.

One Philosopher said, "Of knowledge drink deep or not at all, for a little knowledge will make thee a fool".

L

Labor

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Labor

All of our effort and labor has a deeper significance, and only when we understand that can we sit down at the end of our labor and enjoy it as a day well spent. Physical labor is a doorway to a spiritual plane through which we fulfill God's divine plan for our lives while on this earth. Without it, how can we justify our existence?

Unless you have a work ethic, your tasks will become long and cumbersome.

When working for another person, never admit that you are angry, tired, or bored.

When it comes to labor and responsibility, a person must understand their capacity and work within it.

The only way to work for yourself is to pretend that you are working for someone else. Put in a full day.

Language

It is amazing how people think of each other at the same time. Is it possible that there is somehow a spiritual language that is communicated without speaking?

Laughter

See Smiles

Never let a day go by that you don't laugh.

Laughter from the spirit releases a power that brings healing to the soul and medicine to all your flesh.

Crying empties and cleanses the soul. It accesses the deep resources of your sub-consciousness. Laughter taps into your spirit and produces medicine for our wounds.

Laws

Because of the life of the seed, you are responsible for more than yourself.

The law flows from morality.

Where there are laws without judgment, the people are oppressed.

Laws that do not bend for circumstances and customs do not help the people they serve.

To blindly embrace a law can lead to the loss of liberty and justice because it is not “one size fits all”. Each act is individual and distinct from the other. There is a lot of gray in there. The spirit of the law is only truly fulfilled when it is coupled with judgment.

You will find that the law of Genesis never reproduces at the same rate that it was put into force. You never find a seed only producing one seed. The peach seed will produce a tree that will stand there as long as you will cultivate and water it. It will produce every year. That is an expanded look at the law of Genesis.

All existence pulls toward balance. It all eventually swings to the middle.

All liberty as well as bondage is a process. Therefore, seeds are planted in that direction each day, for all things operate on the seed, plant, and

Seeds of Life

harvest principle. The seed you plant leaves your hand and goes into your future.

He who dishonors and discredits an officer of the law is a hypocrite, for when trouble comes the officer will surely be called.

Lawyer

Because of the spirit and nature of lawlessness, the current of the legal system is so heavy and so strong that over time it will jade and spoil the goodness of anyone who lives in it. It hardens the heart and perverts the sense of ethics. As a result, those who start out right have their boundaries blurred and eventually they lose their way. The Holy Spirit is the only one who can sustain and preserve the compass of the heart in the midst of the storm.

Leadership

There are leadership capabilities in women that have never been tapped. Don't ever let anyone tell you what you can or cannot be. You must grow beyond them.

Just as light can only be seen when it is reflected, even so leadership is only recognized through other things.

Disagreements and confusion arise because the plan was not made clear. A leader who is not very clear on what he or she expects should not complain because the unexpected arises.

The responsibility of a leader is to accumulate talent, access that talent, and bring that talent to its full potential.

The greatest challenge to leadership is to follow up on the things that you have delegated.

Do not murmur and complain about what you allow.

If you nurse a baby long enough, it will start to call you mama. The same will happen when a leader continually has others carry his responsibility.

The armchair quarterback is in every marketplace of life. He is full of criticism. He observes from a distance without commitment and discredits the judgment of others after the matter is concluded. His leadership is an illusion, for he does not act, he only reacts. Therefore, criticism is his only tool. He can lead you to no fruitful place. He will breed seeds of discontentment into his church, work place, and his government. He is not a leader and should not be followed.

People rise and fall to your expectation of them. Don't make excuses about what they can't do. Put your plan in front of them and it will surprise you what they can accomplish.

Before you select your team, remember that performance always speaks louder than words.

One of the top responsibilities of a CEO is to plan his successor.

The key to leadership is to know what you believe and why you believe it. It is from there that you act. Once you know, you must then have the courage to say it even if it is unpopular.

Lead with ideas.

A leader must have the ability to work from reality.

Woe to the leader who is arrogant and insecure at the same time.

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Leadership is to get others to give the very best of themselves.

A leader who gets too far in front of his people can be mistaken for the enemy.

Aggressive methods produce adversarial situations. Expect it!

I have always heard that unless you are the leader of the pack, the view never changes. This is not true. You must possess a larger-than-work prospective.

Love brings trust and trust brings obedience.

Jesus never stood next to his disciples at their time of fear and said *"boys, I can identify with you."* He rebuked them because of their unbelief. This generation of leaders tries to understand, comfort, and identify; therefore we never force people to grow up and face responsibility. Hopefully, you will love them enough not to let them stay in their condition.

A leader must observe trends. He has got to see the big picture.

Don't react, lead.

You must have an internal compass and internal strength to be a leader. It is within you. You just need to get still enough to hear it.

Try not to make a stand or commitment on issues that you are not well informed. It is never enough to take a stand on something just because someone you know or trust turns that way. Your decisions must be based on your own personal conviction, not something you heard from

someone else. If you are going to lead, then lead. If you are going to follow someone else, then quit calling yourself a leader. If you violate this, it will eventually come back to haunt you. You will find yourself taking stands on issues with which you really don't agree.

Probably the number one priority of changing a dying and lifeless business is to identify your management team. They must be people who have the same vision and excitement about the company as you do. If they don't believe that the company will succeed, or that you can lead, you need to move them out of management because they will dampen the whole mentality and spirit of success.

In the life of every leader, they face a time when people leave them with no explanation or reason. They just leave. Although it may sound very crude, every healthy organism must have a bowel movement from time to time. Please listen to the heart of this statement. It is part of growing. As you grow, it is normal to discard some of the things that would be excess or unnecessary for your body to function. Some people are just scaffolding. They are only intended to be there until the building gets built, then they leave. Don't take it personal. Let it happen. To try to hold them when they are supposed to leave will release poison into your whole body, and it won't be long until the body shuts down. It may break out in bitterness, rebellion, strife, and contention. This is usually the response when someone has been there too long.

It seems that proper support and being surrounded by your team is when a leader shines the brightest. The proper "number two" men are required to draw out the best qualities of a leader.

If you wait until you are a good preacher, you will never preach. If you wait until you are a good singer, you will never sing. If you wait until everything is perfect, you will never go forward.

Seeds of Life

When I was a teenager, I worked for a wholesale greenhouse. We supplied several businesses with live plants and maintained the plants for them. That was my job. The only problem was that I met a girl. And while I was supposed to be caring of the plants, I would rush in, water them, and quickly leave to spend the rest of the time with this girl. After a while it began to show. One day my boss came to me and said, "Jerry, if the plants are going to live, you are going to have to spend some time with them." I never forgot those words. I later realized that if you are going to be the manager of a team, business, church, or family, you are going to have to spend some time with it. It cannot be a mechanical visit. Don't ask me how, but somehow the plant knows. It loses its crisp look. It may live for a while, but its color isn't vibrant. It just doesn't look professional or kept. If you want to be successful at what you do, it will cost you time. There is no way around it. The more time you give it, the healthier it will look. If you think that you can cut corners and cheat on your responsibilities, it won't be long until everyone recognizes it.

Strong willed people only respect those who are as strong, or stronger than they are.

Don't be afraid or intimidated by the strengths of your team. Encourage and lead them.

If a leader does not guard himself against arrogance, he will close himself off from the counsel of his team. In heavy matters, ask for their counsel, and be sure to thank them for their input. Then make the decision based on your conscience. Asking for their counsel is not just to make them feel good. It helps draw your attention to something that you possibly did not see. Don't feel pressured to take their advice. If on the other hand, your leader comes to you for your opinion, give your view from how you really feel about the matter. Be prepared to stand by your leader's decision even if your counsel was not followed. Trust the leadership that God gave you. It is hypocritical to follow a leader that you do not trust.

Only use your “A” team on performance night. Let everybody else practice at another time. If they are hungry enough, they will push to develop their skills.

A leader has to draw greatness out of people. The leader has to make the average players good and the good players great. However, they must have strong respect for their leader for this to happen.

If you are going to be a starter on the team, you are going to have to overcome injuries and obstacles.

Nonconformity and individuality can contribute to progress, but remember that individuality still has a field of conduct.

Leadership and management are two totally different horses. Many true leaders do not have good management ability, but they will not succeed without it. A good leader must have someone who can take their vision and organize it.

One of the great tests of an executive is not in his ability to hire qualified people, because most leaders can and love to do that. Rather it is the ability to take someone out of a position without losing them, and make adjustment midstream. Leadership is the ability to arrive where you are going with your whole group in tack, rather than by yourself.

Learn to leave work pressure at the office.

Just as painting by number is not art, neither is it leadership.

Ninety percent of the decisions made by great leaders could be made by someone else. It's that other ten percent, the hard decisions and the spur

Seeds of Life

of the moment decisions for which they actually get paid, is what sets them apart.

Don't hire someone for what they have and not let them do it.

Always remember that a sheep goes astray by eating.

True leadership evokes pride, excitement, and ambition. Like a father, you describe how to set things right. We must speak of where we are going and what is going to happen. That is what it means to "Cast the Vision."

Never complain down, only complain up.

Authority is like respect. You cannot buy it; you must earn it.

Chemistry is the result of relationship and common vision. You must successfully cast the vision to draw the hearts of your workers together. Trying to satisfy workers who aren't happy with money is never the answer. Companies who understand and meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of their employees are the ones who bring chemistry.

One of the greatest lies that leaders believe is, "your ministry is greater than the wall that you are on."

Leadership is summed up in drawing and pulling rather than pushing.

Players win games, coaches lose games.

Whoever controls the purse, controls!

If you are called to lead and don't, you will grieve that call on your life. If you are called to follow and don't, you will grieve that call on your life. As a result many people have lost their way.

Always hire good coaches. Whatever you pay them it is not enough.

Are your leaders doing a bad job because they are unable or is it because you have not taken the time to help them know what they needed to do and equipped them for it?

Without the formal training to lay out the rules of the game, you try to fit into the mix of leadership without understanding of its rules. You find yourself baby setting and giving a slanted form of oversight rather than leading with firmness, confidence and direction. It's like taking a journey without a destination, leading with no particular place to go. Be careful that you do not step into the light of leadership without leading.

Learning

See Books

Some people live and learn. Some just live. Unless you make the decision to learn from each encounter, you will become offended and walk away from the situation without having learned anything.

I have found that the brain is not user friendly. You have got to stick with it until you break through the limitations and boundaries of your mind.

Legacy

These thoughts have flooded my mind a thousand times, what do I leave to my children? I cannot tell you how important this is to me. My legacy to you is love and wisdom. I pass to you the knowledge and treasures of my relationship with our heavenly Father. I put within you hope that

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you can be all that God created you to be. I give you my hugs and the assurance that I will always be in your corner cheering for you. I love you more than I can say.

Legalism

See Debate

You have a hard time giving mercy because you have a hard time receiving mercy. You are legalistic with others because you struggle in being accepted yourself. The same is true with giving love.

In dealing with other people, let your judgment have a conscience. Remember that there are no absolutes. Absolute legalism on any level is off base. The bible says, "Thou shall not kill," yet we kill in war. We kill through the process of criminal law. Absolute legalism will make a hypocrite out of you. The reflection of right and wrong should depend on the circumstances of the situation and the motive of the heart. Before passing judgment on anyone, look at the big picture. Try to consider the implications beyond the immediate circumstances. Make mercy the foundation for all of your judgment.

Life is an exercise in exceptions. The legalism of absolutes does not serve justice.

Legislation

See Government, Politics

Diligence and persistence are the keys to change.

Lending

Don't make the mistake of lending your books.

Lend things only if they are items that you don't have to get back.

Lies

There is a fearful insecurity in the man who lies. He must bolster himself because he cannot face what might be reality.

When a man lies because it is convenient, he has become a liar.

People tend to believe lies that reinforce their own selfish personal beliefs.

A lie has such influence that it can even deceive the one who is telling it.

Be very slow to believe the worst about an individual.

The heart of the liar is filled with fear and instability. He will eventually be unable to discern reality.

A lie is much more effective to the ear that wants to hear it.

Limitations

Your only limitation is the reach of your dreams and your willingness to work.

Littering

I can't think of anything that is of less class, than to litter. People who litter the neighborhood and highways generally litter their homes and cars. They are pigs.

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Loneliness

The greatest need in the world is to be loved. Always try to be sensitive to those who are lonely.

There is a need to belong to someone, and to have someone belong to you. Don't fall into the trap of taking the first person that comes along. When lonely, you are very vulnerable and it is easy to get hooked up with someone that you will regret later. It is difficult to make good judgments when you are lonely, so be slow, be cautious and listen to the counsel of someone you trust. The right person will come along and you will know it in your heart when they do. Time is your friend.

Longevity

Many die prematurely because they worship the god of fate.

To change a man, you have to use one of two methods. Police him or change what he thinks about himself. A person's life is determined by what they think of themselves. When you buy a present for someone, it is not on the basis of what you think of him or her; but on the basis of what they think of themselves.

What you think is the degree to which you open your heart.

Loss

Loss is summed up only by ownership. Make sure you understand who owns it all.

Love

Love is no less than a godly act. It is a spiritual act. It is the heart of God expressed through the floodgates of man into this natural world. It

transcends the realm of flesh and becomes a spiritual connection between two people.

It is difficult to be a good judge of character when you are in love.

The principle of all existence is to love and give. Love is the ultimate truth at the heart of creation.

Love is not the product of effort. There is no such thing as “learning to love someone.”

There are two major forces in the earth, love and selfishness.

Although our lives may be ordinary, our love is not.

Love is the fullest expression of God’s nature that there is. Love is the motivation for my actions and decisions. When I am rooted and grounded in love my capacity for experience is unlimited. The expressions of love are seen in 1st Corinthians 13.

Don’t allow yourself to have contempt for any man.

Love is made perfect when it is fulfilled through experience.

Charity begins at home.

Since Adam was not deceived, it was love and devotion to Eve that caused him to eat from the forbidden fruit and be cast out of the garden. Anything that would give less is not love.

Seeds of Life

The golden rule to love your neighbor as yourself is perfect. How can it not apply to all men?

Love without acknowledgement and responsibility will create co-dependence.

Loyalty

Don't expose the nakedness of your friend simply because he disagrees with you. To prove a point should never be greater than your loyalty to a friend. Truth apart from wisdom can be cold and bitter.

If you don't watch your words at a time of exchange, you will unintentionally insult a friend and then, what is the value in your point?

One who betrays a friend for gain lives without honor. An incurable wound shall they get. Their place shall be dislodged and their foundation shall be unsure.

A disloyal friend is great grief to the soul, for what shall cover his disloyally.

When you are down, you find out who your real friends are. Don't ever forget them.

Never hesitate to cover the nakedness of your companion, for his nakedness is your nakedness.

The disloyalty of someone you trust is a wound that is very deep. Only God can heal that. Ask Him to do it.

One who changes loyalties because their team is not winning will not be loyal to you unless there is profit in their hand.

Luck

Lady luck is not a good financial or business partner. Never trust your substance with her.

Lust

1 Peter 1:4 Lust is the avenue for corruption to come.

Lust uses our sexuality but never brings fulfillment.

Luxury

If priorities are not coupled with your thinking of luxury, you will not only spend beyond yourself, but also you will not have the capacity to enjoy it. You grow and mature into this capacity. As a result, many people waste luxuries that they cannot appreciate.

M

Management	Mockery
Manners	Moderation
Marriage	Modesty
Mastery	Momentum
Media	Money
Meditation	Morality
Memories	Mortality
Mercy	Mother
Military	Motivation
Mind	Motives
Ministry	Mourning
Mistakes	Music
Misunderstanding	Mysterious

Management

A key to good management is to play into your strength. Quit trying to prop up your weaknesses. You will never be any good at them. Rather staff your weaknesses and build your strengths.

Space is like money. You generally use what you have.

People don't usually have money problems; they simply have a management problem. Money follows proper management.

Beware that your desire for order does not imprison you. Legalism can be very destructive.

The key to time management is to see the value of every moment. Just as each cell of your body contributes and has all of the priorities of the whole body, so each minute does of the entire day. Each moment should be positioned and slotted for the priority of the moment whether planned or unplanned.

Manners

Manners are the very foundation and building blocks of all relationships.

Good manners are more important than a good education.

All of the market places of life operate with ease when people understand manners and courtesy.

Never bring an uninvited guest to a function without first calling the host and asking if it would be all right.

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It is very tacky to walk around with a toothpick in your mouth. If you are leaving a restaurant, try not to let anyone see you cleaning your teeth.

Marriage

See Husband and Wife, Relationships

Opposites attract because they were designed to do that. They are the fulfillment of each other. If you don't see that, you will be in constant conflict. There is beauty in the fact that your mate is not just like you. Don't try to change them, rather cultivate who they are.

Before you settle on a life-long mate, search out the matter, and be sure of the life-styles, belief, and convictions that they hold for they can abort all that you are or will ever be.

The engagement period is a time to work out all of the details of life and to ask questions on all of the personal issues. It is a time to look at the bad side as well as the good side. Unfortunately, most people think it is just a prelude to marital bliss, as a result, they therefore marry people that they don't even know.

Quality time starts when you want to be there.

How can you find the right person until you have made the decision to be the right person?

Here is a mystery about marriage. There are two kinds of people in the world. One is always 10 minutes early, and the other is always 10 minutes late. And, they always get married to each other.

Deciding on the person you are going to marry is one of the most important decisions that you will ever make. Don't rush it. In the journey of life, make sure that you have the right traveling companion.

To say, “I’m sorry, please forgive me”, to the one you love is to add years your future.

Although it is not wrong to marry someone of another race, it is expensive. The price is very high and the payments never cease. They are extracted by each person you meet.

Make the decision now to never let your marriage be scarred with an unfaithful relationship.

Your mate needs your respect and admiration. No one can take your place in this area. Without them, your marriage will never be complete.

When you decide to get married, take time to write your own vows. Keep a copy of them handy and look at them from time to time.

Never grow beyond your mate. Always take them with you.

Never shop for food when you are hungry or full, and never select a mate without the counsel of a father and mother. Fleshly appetites will deceive you.

Never choose a mate based on outward appearance. All the physical that you see will soon change and wear away and you may be left with an idiot.

The greatest danger in the bedroom is boredom and a lack of communication.

Imagination is one of the most powerful features of mankind. Sometimes it is not what you do or show; it is what you leave out or

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keep hidden. Letting people use their imagination allows them to become more emotionally involved. If you let a person's imagination work, they will exceed anything that you could ever do through your efforts. When the imagination is lost, so is curiosity and intrigue. If you don't do this with your mate, you will soon both become bored in your relationship and intimacy.

I am completely astounded at the way couples let their appearance go down in the presence of their mate. If you want to shoot your marriage through the heart, then stop looking good for the person you love. As much as a person says that it doesn't matter, it does matter. They need someone in whom they can be proud. This takes a lot of work and discipline, but it is worth it in the end. Always try to look your best for them morning, noon, and night.

Adultery is the work of a fool. It is an empty cloud whose end is destruction.

A man can have another mistress, but it doesn't have to be a woman. He can get mad at his wife and go out to his other lover. It can be his boat, job or game. Anything you use to replace that relationship.

Divorce is not an option. The answers you seek and the need you feel lies within and not without.

When it comes to your conduct with your mate, don't write checks if you have not made the deposits to cover them.

Maturity

Maturity is:

The ability to do a job without supervision.

The ability to complete a job once it is started

To carry money without spending it.

To bare an injustice without wanting to get even.

Mastery

You were designed for Mastery.

Mastery is purchased, not given. Its price is high.

It is said to cost 10,000 hours to gain Mastery in any area.

Media

The personal convictions of the media outweigh the purity of journalism.

The media has achieved a power and influence that our founding fathers would have been concerned about.

The secular media has become so wretched that even with all of their powerful influence they cannot make themselves look credible.

Meditation

Quietness and isolation are the doorways to hidden treasure. Meditation unlocks the deep resources of the spirit. Meditation enlarges your root capacity and taps the pool of creativity.

Meditation should start with a single thought, and from there it expands to the laws or principles that pertain to it. After that, it will take on a life of its own.

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Some of your best ideas will come when you are doing something alone.

Live from the inside out. Practice from the inside out.

Meditation brings growth to the spirit and rest to the soul.

Practice absorbing the moment.

Memories

Carefully store your memories. They are why we work and build and dream.

The memories of my children are like fine wine. The older the date, the more precious the drink. I have bottled each memory and drink from them often.

When it first opened, I went to the new baseball stadium in Arlington, Texas, which was the new home of the Texas Rangers. As I stood on the top floor overlooking the playing field, I was overwhelmed with a memory from my playing days as a kid. I was the pitcher on a local pee-wee team. I attended Columbus school in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and played for the Columbus Zebras. I haven't said that name in years. Isn't it strange how a memory is anchored to so many feelings? Well, that day in Arlington, I remembered something that I had not felt in 30 years. It was the feel of a brand new baseball that had never been used. I remember the umpire throwing the new ball out to me. The leather felt soft and slick. It was so white that it would almost glow. The feel of the new ball in my hands brings so many memories and emotions to the surface, like the lights, the dirt on the mound. I don't know how to describe it, but some of the greatest feelings I have ever had in my life are linked to that new baseball in my hand. Maybe you would have to experience it to understand. Thank you God for that memory. It is wonderful to be touched by the magic of baseball.

All input into your memory is forgotten unless it is filed.

Memory programs are not magic. They don't automatically give you a better memory. You still have to file every piece of information.

You don't remember in words. You remember in pictures. Let pictures make your associations.

Mercy

When in doubt, show mercy and patience.

Mercy is lord over judgment.

When you are torn between judgment and mercy, look for a way to show mercy, even to those who have done wrong and don't deserve it. Keep searching until you find some entitlement or vindication for them.

Don't try to pre-qualify people for mercy. We all fall short.

Grace is when you got what you did not deserve. Mercy is when you did not get what you deserved.

Military

See War

It appears to me that a strong military and a willingness to go to war are what keeps peace in the world.

America must maintain the strength and resources to fight on more than one front at a time, for there are many enemies to democracy. Power

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and might is the only language that they understand. We must be able and willing to back up everything that we say.

The strength of a treaty is in the continued strength of the military.

Mind

The condition of my body is a result of an attitude and revelation of my mind.

The mind is a wonderful tool but to be developed it must have a demand placed on it.

The mind is like an over protective parent, who never lets their child experience life because of fear and reason.

Our brain operates at about 10% and we worship our intelligence. How arrogant.

Ministry

A sermon does not a minister make, nor does a song a singer make.

A priest's life is to remain a simple one. The more his ambitions arise, the more he serves himself instead of those to whom he is called.

The power of ministry is the overflow of relationship, not the intellect.

In every minister's life, they face the battle of focus. They are only effective when they have a focused and consistent theme that runs through all of their communication. Without it, there is not much to remember or reason to be drawn to them.

Don't think that people will embrace your ministry and overlook your character. What you are can disqualify you from the race. God is more interested in building your character than He is in building your ministry. Your character is the water mark to which everything in your life rises or falls.

Those in ministry should not get involved in politics. Endorsement of political figures should not be done. It separates people from you. It is a compromise that will hurt the ministry. Although I have very strong political convictions, I am called to minister to the spiritual needs of all men, regardless of their political belief. I have not always done that, and for this I am ashamed.

If the convictions that you preach do not penetrate your heart, then how in the world do you expect them to penetrate the hearts of those who hear you?

Don't preach to problems by letting pressures dictate what you preach and don't preach to people who aren't there.

People don't come to hear you preach, they come to hear you think.

I have set out to be a man after God's own heart. Whatever influence God gives me is for Him.

A holy man is humble and unassuming. He gives more than he takes. He serves more than he is served. He displays the Hesid of God to the world. A true holy man carries the presence of God and actually becomes an expression of God's personality. He has a gentleness towards all men that is great.

Look at your neighbor as greater than yourself and become their servant.

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The ministry is 100% business and 100% spiritual. It is big business to get a man right with God. It affects generations to come.

Minorities

I don't think in this day and time that being a minority makes you a victim of anything except numbers.

Miracles

See God

Our belief in miracles will rest on our understanding of God and the part He plays in our life. All of the handiwork of God is a miracle. Creation at every level is miraculous, from the opening of a flower to the balance of the universe. Which would you say is the greatest miracle, the opening of a blind eye or the birth of a child? To embrace only one is to not understand the other. We usually distinguish a miracle by its frequency. The more we see it, the more we don't see it. If the sun only came up one time in your life, your response would be that it is the most miraculous thing that you had ever seen. But because we see it each day, it becomes common to us. We call it "natural." As a result, many miraculous things happen around us every day and we don't see them. Maybe it is not that we stop seeing miracles, we just stop taking time to appreciate them. Our society has become so hardened, that as unthankful children, we cease to be impressed. At the center of the failure of human nature is an unthankful heart.

Mistakes

I believe that Martin Luther King was right, and it is a crying shame that more didn't listen to him. We must forbid ourselves or our children from making the same mistakes that our forefathers made.

When you genuinely learn, there are no mistakes.

Misunderstanding

Misunderstandings occur either when the plan was not made clear or the listener was not paying attention to what you were saying. For this reason, it is good to put your instructions on paper when possible.

Mockery

Never join the laughter of malicious remarks made about any man. Why would you join the ranks of fools?

Moderation

All that you do should be seasoned with moderation.

Occasionally, examine what you do. Determine if it is overly seasoned. Otherwise, your entire life will be out of balance, and you won't know it.

Modesty

I worry about a society that cannot be embarrassed or ashamed.

Show modesty with your mate.

Momentum

Momentum is the greatest weapon of all competition. It can outstrip talent and desire. Learn to recognize it. Catch the crest of its wave and take advantage of its flow.

Money

See Spending

If money becomes too important to you, you tend not to want to offend the people from which it came from. This will lead to a fear of

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disagreeing, and in the end your creativity and passions will become imprisoned.

Just as the alcoholic looks at money as a means to another drink, you can always tell where a person's heart is and what he is by watching what he does with his money.

To pay a man before the job is complete is to have an incomplete job when the job is through.

Money does not change you. It simply makes you more of what you already are.

Good and evil is a condition of the heart, and hidden things are brought to light with money.

Never make financial deals with people in your church.

To build your life on material possessions is to build your life on an illusion.

Debt is a vacuum that increases its strength with each day.

Try not to buy anything that you will not have the money to pay for at the end of the month.

Carefully examine your ability to pay and live within your means.

Beware of "get rich quick schemes", for behind all success is labor and sacrifice.

You can usually judge a person's financial value by looking at his shoes and his watch.

Nothing tests a person's character like gold.

Understand the boundary of your means and determine to be a good steward over it.

Never discuss your money with anyone except your accountant, your investment broker or your mate.

If you do not save 10% of your earnings, you declare that you do not deserve at least that much of what you have worked so hard to gain.

We have not resisted lack like we did sickness and disease. When it comes to finances and abundance in our lives, it is almost as though we were waiting for something to happen. Faith doesn't wait. It reaches out and calls. It calls those things which are not as though they were. It lays hold of the unseen and brings it into the seen.

Whenever a free lunch is offered, someone has to pick up the tab. Nothing is free. Most of the time the price tag is cleverly disguised, and you don't see it until you are committed.

Never let a salesman come to your house with his goods. If he is good, and many of them are, you will buy what you do not need. Never let any man sell you something unless you have had time to think it through. His "one time" offer is generally nothing more than a manipulation and pressure technique.

It is a mistake to carry a lot of money with you.

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There is a fortune to be made in simple things.

Problems are not fixed by throwing money at them. You may relieve the pressure of the moment, but the problem remains. There must be a change of conduct. Financial misconduct and spending patterns can become a financial black hole that will bring you to poverty.

Money goes to problem solvers.

To find favor is to find money.

I agree with John Adams. Industry and Thrift are cornerstones of life.

Morality

The natural tendency of the lust of man's nature pulls them to the liberal side. We know this because we allow things now that we would have never allowed a generation ago. Our conscience becomes seared and excess becomes the norm. Because of this, it is best to be on the conservative side of all issues pertaining to morality and conduct, even if it seems old-fashioned.

When the morality of a nation is gone, so is its longevity.

An immoral nation is infected with a contagious disease. Immorality is a spiritual problem that ever increases its grip and is easily caught by others. It will not be long until immorality manifests itself in the flesh. Physical disease and death are its fruit.

Mortality

The frailty of life seems cruel.

Mother

There is no beauty to equal a loving mother.

There is no place on earth so special as Grandmother's house.

Motivation

Pain and pleasure are the two great motivators of life.

Motives

Motives are rarely unselfish.

Motive is as important as the cause. Learn the difference.

Mourning

See Death

In the time of one's mourning, do not correct or instruct them. This is a time to weep with them. Save your instruction for another day.

Music

The language of music is universal.

Learn the power of music and use it wisely.

When someone speaks of the "blues" in music, they are speaking of something that is communicated from one person to another. It is quite literally felt by the listener. In short, the heaviness of their spirit is communicated. They have a sort of anointing for that. It is spiritual and prevailing. Many times it is from someone who has been wounded, yet

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never healed. They make you feel what they feel. The Bible tells of a “spirit of heaviness.” That describes the blues.

There is no such thing as a former musician. They are just a little rusty.

There was an old saying, “whistle while you work”. Have you noticed that people under 50 don't whistle very much? I was whistling the other day and it dawned on me that I haven't heard anyone else doing that for a while. It was a cultural shift. Electronics has replaced it.

Mysterious

If we don't wonder and marvel, we might as well be dead. The mysterious is the flavoring that makes us alive while we are here.

N

Narrow-minded

Nature

Necessity

Negotiation

Neighbors

Need

Nobility

Seeds of Life

Narrow Minded

See Debate

Narrow minded means that anyone else's opinion is not invited. This can leave you looking pretty small and insecure.

Nature

Open your eyes and see the artistry of God.

The earth is designed to heal itself, just like our body is.

Necessity

Everything that we are or have become is because of a need within.

Only one thing is truly needful, and that is to sit at His feet and hear His Word.

Negotiation

See Debate, Principles, Integrity, Compromise, Opinions

Yielding is a gem in the art of negotiation. Just know in your heart the hills that you will die on. Know before you go into it, what is and what is not negotiable.

You compromise on strategy, not principles.

Because it is not how we have always done it, we immediately count it as wrong. Sometimes it is not wrong, it's just different. Although you do not negotiate on things that are wrong, you must be prepared to negotiate on things that are different. Otherwise, you are very small and closed-minded.

If you chase a dog with a bone, he is likely to run away even if he wants the bone. Your approach is very important.

When it comes time to negotiate your salary, be realistic about what you need and add 10%. But remember, if you don't believe that you deserve it, neither will your superior.

Neighbors

See Manners

Take time to get to know your neighbors, but know when it is time to give them space. Privacy is very important to people. The trick to being a good neighbor is to make them feel that you are there, but that they are not obligated to you. Always wave, or give a casual greeting, but don't make them dread seeing you by feeling that you are going to take up their time. Respect their space. They are paying a lot of money for it.

Need

Our search and desire for security is the focal point of every human problem. That is why we fear reality.

An idol is anything that we hold that gives us a sense of security.

Deeds, touch, time, and words of affirmation, all of these describe ways that you can touch people. Most adults have never received more than one or two; therefore they do not know how to give more than that. To be effective in someone's life you must give him or her what they need, rather than what you need. In other words, your dominant need may be affirmation when their dominant need is time. You can give them affirmation every day, but it doesn't address their real need. Therefore, they feel incomplete. To really be effective in their life, you must know what their need is.

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Nobility

True nobility is not summed up in being better than anyone else; it is becoming better than you were.

O

Obedience

Obstacles

Obvious

Offense

Old Age

Opinions

Opportunities

Opposition

Optimism

Originality

Over commitment

Overweight

Seeds of Life

Obedience

Violation of your conscience and disobedience to the voice of the Lord are sisters, for your conscience is the voice of your spirit.

Humility is obedience

Obstacles

The difference between a stepping stone and a stumbling stone is how high you lift your feet. Just because an obstacle is there doesn't mean that you have to trip over it.

Sometimes the walls that you have been fighting against aren't walls at all. It might be a staircase. All of the obstacles and challenges in life are merely vehicles to bring out our best efforts and open the door to new realms.

Obvious

Don't complicate the obvious. It is not always a difficult answer. Sometimes a tree is just a tree.

Offense

When you fear offense, you seldom change the course of your life.

I would say that the large majority of our country is offended about something. It just shows that their mentality is geared toward taking more than giving. This grieves me.

We get hurt because we have conditions attached to our life. It is when we have expectations on people. We serve with conditions. We love with conditions. Am I treated right? Did I get the spotlight? We live in

offense until it destroys us. If you remove expectations, you remove the vehicle that hurts you.

Offense can only come when pride is present.

Remaining offended or holding on to an offense doesn't just mean that you are remembering that you were hurt. To remain offended causes you to relive that hurt and doesn't allow the injury to heal.

Offense is a parasite that has a short lifespan. It cannot sustain itself. It must be fed.

Old Age

Youth is truly wasted on the young.

You can tell when a person gets old. They stop being curious.

We are too soon old and too late smart.

There would be more pleasure in old age than in youth if we did not fear it. Fear of death robs us from seeing the beauty of our mature years.

To be young, say yes to more things.

Fall in love with what you do for a living, and you will live for a long time.

The older you get, the less you look at the big picture and the more you focus on each grain that falls through the hourglass.

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The strength of life starts at 40.

To embrace the concept of retirement is to be deceived into thinking that you have productive and non-productive years. That in itself is very narrow-minded. The fact that you have been given additional years should tell you that you have not yet completed everything that God wants you to do. You may not do the same thing that you did thirty years ago, but every year of your life yields a harvest of wisdom, understanding, and experience. It is alarming how much of that harvest is left to rot in the fields. You were never designed to retire. To accept retirement is to declare to your body that you are ready for a quick death. That is nothing more than an abandonment of life. Productivity and activity should never be replaced with inactivity.

Opinions

See Debate

It seems that people today have embraced their opinion as absolute truth. They do anything they want, and they justify it as their right to their own opinion. Right or wrong then becomes vague. Let there be no misunderstanding. There is an absolute right and absolute wrong. If you don't understand this, you will lose your way.

What the eye sees and the ear hears is usually already in the mind. You see what you want to see.

There is a difference between true knowledge and subjective opinion. Blessed is the man who knows where one leaves off and the other picks up.

Opinions are like seasoning. Too many opinions spoil the flow. It will confuse you and raise unnecessary opposition to your plan from people who are not called to lead and from whom it will cost nothing. Only ask

for the opinions that you are truly willing to hear. Remember that you also have an opinion. Don't let anyone take that away from you.

When you are free from other people's opinion, they have no hold on you. You are set apart from their approval or disapproval. They can't intimidate you.

Opportunities

There are spiritual channels all around us like the flowing of a river, channels of success, healing, finance, and creativity to name just a few. I have seen people discern that they were at such a channel and tap into financial flow. They literally are swept up into its current. Once you hit that flow, it brings many opportunities to you. To every force in life, there is a flow. When you get close to it, you can literally feel the vacuum of its current.

Danger and opportunity are often the same thing. We call it crisis.

Opportunity is not a mandate.

The life span of an opportunity is not always very long. You must have the insight to strike while the iron is hot.

Sometimes opportunities are missed because they looked like too much effort and were not seized. Opportunity doesn't just come on you. You must seize it.

Opportunities become realities when they are confronted.

Opportunity doesn't wait for the slow to move or the faint of heart.

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Opportunities are always accompanied by a step of faith.

Opportunity is the gateway to all things. Look for it.

In some ways, life is like a ball game. You wait and prepare and practice for your turn to bat. In a moment of time, it is over. Everything that you do, every decision you make, and every relationship you have prepares you for that moment. Wrong decisions and wrong relationships will either abort or ill prepare you for your time in life, and it might just as well be that you had never been born.

Opposition

See Enemies

Try not to allow yourself to be in opposition with anyone. It will become a distraction to your life. Don't let your opposition talk you into coming off the wall of your labor to argue with them on their level. Keep yourself focused on where you are going.

Two forces going in the same direction will not cross paths. If you find yourself in opposition with your coworkers, you need to check your direction and also consider their direction. It may not be the same. It is usually an indication or a symptom that something is wrong with someone's direction when you have conflict on your team. It is a good time to communicate more effectively.

Sometimes it takes the wolf to discern the hireling. You might have never known the hireling were it not for the wolf.

If David didn't have Goliath, he would have just been another kid throwing rocks. Every vision breeds oppositions. Don't get overwhelmed with opposition. It's not a stumbling stone, it is a stepping stone. Opposition or resistance is what brings greatness out of you.

Optimism

See Pessimism

Some people spend their whole life living off of the bottom of the tank rather than the top.

Winners don't dwell on the penalties of failure. Their eyes focus on the rewards of success.

The optimist produces his own adrenaline.

Optimism is fuel.

Originality

I don't think anyone could claim complete originality. They were all inspired by someone or something.

Over commitment

People who are habitually over-committed usually do so because of guilt and fear of disapproval.

Over commitment is a sign of a lack of temperance in your life. If you allow this to become a life style for your family, your children are sure to carry the same habits over into their families.

Overweight

Don't allow yourself to stare or comment when you see people that are overweight. Don't set yourself up as judge of anyone. They don't belong to you. They are not your servant. On top of that, you probably have some areas in which you fall short.

Seeds of Life

You can't be overweight if you don't have a lifestyle to support it. You must ask yourself, what support or lifestyle have I put in place to make possible the things that I do not want?

P

Pain	Prayer
Parent and child	Precaution
Parting	Prejudice
Partnership	Preoccupation
Passions	Preparation
Past	Pressure
Patience	Pretense
Patriotism	Prevention
Peace	Pride
People	Principles
Perception	Priorities
Perfection	Prison
Performance	Privacy
Perseverance	Problems
Personality	Procrastination
Perversion	Progress
Pessimism	Prominence
Pettiness	Promises
Philosophy	Promiscuity
Pity	Promotion
Planning	Property
Pleasures	Prophecy
Policeman	Prosperity

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Politeness	Protection
Politics	Protocol
Popularity	Proverbs
Position	Public Speaking
Possessions	Punctuality
Poverty	Punishment
Power	Purpose
Praise	

Pain

See Grief

Pain and pleasure are the two great motivators of life.

Parent and Child

See Family

Close to a year after my dad died, I was alone in a motel room in southeastern Oklahoma. It suddenly hit me that he was gone. A flood of memories filled the room. I remembered as a boy how safe and complete I felt with him, and for the first time since he passed, I really hurt on the inside. I miss him terribly.

The term should not be “illegitimate children”. It should be “illegitimate parents”.

Parting

See Death

Hold the memories close to your heart and let each one of them be precious to you. It takes some of the sting out of parting.

Partnership

A good understanding keeps from a misunderstanding. Make sure your partner clearly understands the details of your agreement together. Verbal communication is too easily misunderstood. Get everything that you expect in writing. You will love yourself for it.

Sometimes a partner is necessary if you are not a self-starter.

In life, you need someone with the same mind-set as you have, someone to help you dream. Iron sharpens iron.

Seeds of Life

Passions

In the fourth century, St Augustine said “What a man does not long for can neither be the object of his despair or hope”.

The passions of your heart are usually the reflections of the call on your life.

Passion will cause you to mistreat others if it is not governed.

Never make a decision for life based on sexual passion. Sexual passion blurs the vision and dulls your judgment. It is like a drug.

If you lose passion, you have lost the strength of life.

Past

The past can be a wonderful learning tool, but a terrible place to live.

Even though you seek it with bitter tears, you cannot purchase the past. Weigh every decision.

The past is usually what you choose to remember.

Although we hate to face the failures of our past, every man must face his Esau. You usually find that it is not as bad as you thought.

Patience

All things will soon pass.

A patient person is patient because they know how things are going to turn out. They have selected their outcome in spite of circumstances.

We are impatient because we are trying to do too much.

Patriotism

See Government, War

Only be willing to give your life for a cause worthy of your life. Most causes are temporal and spurred on only by smoke. Sad is the man who lays down his life and when the smoke clears, there is no cause.

Peace

Peace is not our destination. It is simply to insulate us on our journey.

Peacemakers have a special place in the heart of God. His reward is with them.

The root of contention is pride. Pride is the opposite of peace.

Don't be passive in the pursuit of peace. Let it be something that you cherish.

Peace is not just the absence of trouble or strife. Among the population, it is solidarity between people. In your own heart, it is solidarity between you and God. If you are at peace with God, you can be at peace with yourself and thereby at peace with your fellowman.

Love peace and pursue it with all of your might.

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How can you enter into the presence of the King when you are divided from your fellowman?

Peace and gentleness are a result of discipline, for your decision to walk in them will certainly be challenged.

Peace is not an end unto itself. It is merely a vehicle to insulate you and carry you to Him.

People

The most important thing in the world is people.

In the midst of a catastrophe, we see a glimpse of humanity in which we console ourselves into thinking that all people are basically good. But the other 364 days in the year, I find them to be a generation of people who are unthankful, self serving, and intolerant of others.

People are instinctively drawn to whatever or whoever makes them feel good about themselves.

Perception

Perception is the only reality most people will ever know. With this in mind, it is important that you guard your steps. Even if their perception of you is not true, as far as they are concerned, it might just as well be true. Don't make the mistake of saying that it is not important what other people think. It is important. Guard your reputation as best you can.

A cat went to England to visit the Queen. When he returned home they asked him what he saw. He said, "I saw a mouse". You usually see what you are looking for.

Most things are merely a popular consensus of perception. You have to learn to function and operate within that framework.

False perception can diminish the greatest of men and render them helpless and unable to contribute to your need.

Perfection

If you wait for perfection, you will do nothing.

There is no human effort that can be described as perfect. So, don't expect more from yourself than you have the capability to give. Do your best and then some, and sit back and enjoy the results of your labor. To grieve over what could have been is a waste of life and branches from idolatry and an unthankful heart.

The perfectionist is guilty of idolatry. Their opinion has become an idol to them.

Performance

Each day is a new performance. Always show your best self.

Perseverance

When things get hard, set your jaw.

You are not defined by what you are as an artist, but rather by what you are as a professional. Don't quit simply because you are not chosen for the part. Your day will come.

Seeds of Life

Personality

Everyone has personality, a wonderful personality. It is just that many times they are too afraid or insecure to bring it out, and the people around them don't get to see it.

Your personality is as individual as your purpose. Your personality is an expression of your purpose. Don't try to change your personality, find your purpose.

Perversion

Perversion is ever expanding and knows no bounds.

The most striking feature among those who are caught up in the spirit of perversion is that they are driven. This only proves that they are not in the driver's seat.

Being a little perverted is like being a little pregnant. It is taking you someplace.

Pessimism

See optimism

The gravity of pessimism increases with each act of permission that you grant until you cannot escape it. It infiltrates, corrupts and decays everything that is beautiful in your life.

Pettiness

It is possible to win the debate and lose the election. It is not always so important to prove your point.

Pettiness will cause you to lose sight of the big picture.

Philosophy

Philosophy will spoil your mind.

The philosopher's search for reality ends in Christ. The only true reality is in Jesus Christ.

Pity

I cannot think of even one fruitful thing that comes from pity. It is a cleverly disguised enemy that controls you through your emotions.

Planning

It is easier to give birth than to raise the dead.

A good future must be planned in advance.

Thrift and industry should characterize our life.

Sometimes the best things in life are not planned. Don't be legalistic about planning, for God is faithful to direct your steps. Learn to enjoy every experience you encounter.

In reality, you can make time for whatever you want if you have the will to do so.

The idleness of a plan will bring ruin, but the strong pursuit will work it out.

Seeds of Life

Pleasures

God made all men upright, but they were corrupted through the pursuit of pleasures.

Is not rarity the spice of pleasure?

Policeman

See Authority

As an authority figure, if you do not respect those who are under your authority, you will eventually abuse them.

Never be guilty of a lack of respect when talking about a police officer.

A policeman as well as a judge sees the worst of society and society at its worst. It is very difficult for the not to become jaded. They need the foundation of a family and a church to keep perspective.

If a policeman ever stops you at night, stay in your car and turn on your interior lights. It is a courtesy to the officer.

Politeness

I see politeness as a lost art in the hustle of our modern day.

Politics

See Government

I believe that raising taxes is the laziest, non creative piece of legislation that can be written.

Beware of the government that believes you are so ignorant that you don't know what is good for you.

The mystery of politics is that it deludes our sense of reasoning, and before we know it, we have committed the sin of hate against our brother.

Of all the ideals and thoughts that lead to political prosperity, you will find that a belief in God, a pursuit of holiness and morality are indispensable cornerstones.

The religious pursuits of a godly nation provide a moral anchor for its society.

You cannot separate the Church and the State, for a people's faith is deeply entwined with the issues of the day. It is on those convictions that we base our decisions, form our society, and thereby carry out our government. To scorn our religious values is to scorn our fathers, as well as our children and ourselves. We become untrue to all that is sacred and revered.

We need to take more time to cultivate our politicians. It isn't enough to get them elected. It takes time for them to grow. There is no way in one term that a man or woman can really make a true contribution. They grow and develop into a statesman.

I am opposed to term limits. We need veterans in valued positions. I feel that the people who want term limits are just angry with the government, and change is the only avenue that they know. The problem with this is that it doesn't allow a politician time to grow. I see term limits as a quick fix with long term problems.

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When the lower classed element becomes involved in any sport, the first thing that goes is manners and courtesy. It appears that it is also that way in politics.

We need politicians who are too honest to be bought, too wise to be fooled, and too courageous to be intimidated.

Money and emotion are the mother's milk of politics.

As I look at the Department of Human Services and other government related programs, I see that we live under a system that punishes the diligent and rewards the slothful. Under the pretense of caring for the poor, they have shaped a generation that has become impotent in its ability to provide for itself, and has become totally dependent on a care system that is flawed at its very foundation. Any time there is a crack in the system; all those who stand on it will plummet into desperation. The health care system as it is at this moment is the worst thing that can happen to the poor because it imprisons them in a mindset and lifestyle.

I believe the ACLU to be an anti-Christian organization.

Bureaucracy is a cancer to any government, and bureaucrats are poisonous cells to its endeavors. Greed is at the heart of all that they do. All of their red tape is for their benefit. By the time they finish with a piece of legislation, very little of its benefits reach the people for whom they were intended.

It is unbelievable to me that our government shows special honor and favor to those who are not born in this country by giving them special loan programs, government sponsored bank loans or tax breaks so they can open hotels, convenience stores or just junk shops while the indigenous people can't get past a high school education because they can't afford it.

Popularity

What is as illusive and misunderstood as popularity? Popular to whom? At what cost? I find that the pursuit of fame is expensive and dissatisfying. It is something that you are not real sure when you have arrived. And, when you do it becomes a prison. Maybe that is the answer. You have truly arrived and become popular when you are imprisoned in your own home.

Position

Give honor to those who have attained positions in life. It is a reward worthy of their life work.

Possessions

You will find that having is not always as fulfilling as wanting.

Great possessions bring great captivity and with possessions come responsibility.

Potential

Within the acorn is an oak and within the oak is unlimited acorns.

Poverty

See Money, Debt

He that brings grief and fear to the poor is an abomination to the heart of God, and the destroyer shall not depart from his house.

He that disregards the cry of the poor shall surely come to want, and he who sells out their confidence shall not find mercy, for God shall bring every work into judgment.

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Give to him that cannot repay and promise yourself that you will never tell.

The poor and needy will always be here. Some things never change. Their problem is not their surroundings or the lack of opportunity. The impasse is in their heart and in their minds. Instead of looking within, they point the blame to circumstances. Poverty is a condition of the heart. Never hesitate to give to them for they cannot help themselves. God will reward you.

Any man who would plead the cause of the poor has the attention of the Lord.

Try to help the poor sufficient to their needs. Not all needy people have the same needs. A rich man made poor will have needs that are different, and though their needs may seem excessive in comparison to other poor people, they are still needs. Help preserve their self worth and dignity. Try to protect the dignity of another person even if you, at times, have to abandon your own.

Power

We have a constant search for power based on the belief that we don't have any. Ever reaching, never arriving.

The only true power is power with God. All else is fleeting.

People who have power never think about it. Those who don't have power, it is all they think of.

Praise

Praise is the war cry of the believer.

Praise the accomplishments of the ones that you hold dear to your heart. It is one of the most needed rewards of all of our pursuits.

Prayer

See God, Worship

Get alone with God until you are alone no more.

Relationship with God is not the focus in most prayer, need is. `

Prayer opens up a flow from the world of the spirit. Praying in the spirit does not just consist of words, rather a springing up of that river from within.

There is a place in a relationship that transcends words. These are the times that your prayer is in utter silence.

The discussion of prayer in school should not center only upon the issue of religious freedom, but rather on the issue of fairness to the rights of all that attend the school. In this day and time, we have a diversity of nations represented in each community. To assume that prayer must be given in a certain way is to assume that each person worships God as I do. But in our society we find the Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and even the atheist. I may not agree with the way that they worship, but neither should I impose my prayer upon them without their consent. If we have prayer in the public school, whose prayer must all of these nations submit? If the taxes of each of these nations contribute and provide an educational system, then they, within that system, should be protected from a religion or belief of which they disagree, being imposed upon them. One of the pillars of our constitution is the freedom to worship God as we see fit. Therefore, the teachers who are paid by the state should not impose religious preference upon any student. However, each student should have the freedom of religious expression as he or she sees fit, provided it does

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not interfere with the class structure or become intrusive to other students. I see the issue of prayer in school as an exercise of religious freedom rather than religious worship. Most of those who argue for prayer in school do not pray at home. It is a political move and not a spiritual one.

Precaution

Precaution is nothing more than foresight. It is not a negative characteristic. It just takes an extra few moments to cover yourself in advance.

Prejudice

It is immoral to hate someone because they are different from you.

Prejudice is the product of a lazy mind. It is conclusion without investigation.

Cast away prejudice and discrimination wherever you find it.

Absence breeds prejudice.

Love for only one race is repulsive and unacceptable.

Racism is rooted in three things: fear, pride, and the unknown.

Racism is a baton that is passed from one generation to another. It is caught more than taught.

When we learn manners before morals, it will produce prejudice. When we take opinion of others without understanding, we blindly submit to their prejudice.

Class development, growth, and struggle are inevitable, and an attempt to do away with it only births another. For instance, Marxism and Communism; their iron fist would crush one class only to become an oppressive class itself.

To abridge one person's rights will undermine the structure of our society.

We are all victims of racism. Oh, how I detest those who have sown it into our society for profit.

Preoccupation

Make the decision not to be preoccupied when entertaining guests. It shows a lack of discipline and courtesy. On top of that, it is rude. Turn off the television or other distractions and focus your attention on your guest. If something comes to mind that you do not want to forget, quickly jot down your thoughts and ponder them later.

Preparation

Preparation is more important than delivery, because delivery is natural when preparation is complete.

If you don't use your head, then you will have to use your feet.

When you set the table, you set the mood.

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Preparation is the path to excellence. This should be understood when you approach all of your goals. It brings temperance and balance to all of your pursuits.

Pressure

The pressure points of a person's life are found in their desire.

Pretense

If your motives are not pure, it will come to light sooner or later for all to see.

Prevention

Prevention is accomplished by thinking the situation through before it arrives. It is as simple as that.

Pride

Pride is the only thing that can be offended. Arrogance is a false wall.

Pride is to say, "I can be like God without Him."

The boaster lies to himself and his end is sorrow and unfulfillment.

There is none so blind as he who refuses to see. His stubbornness has become an idol and truth an enemy.

Pride is an enemy to your soul and will under-mine the plans of God for your life. Forsake pride and embrace it not, for the end of it is destruction.

A person who is lifted with pride is a person who has no understanding of his creator, and in his drunken stupor he will surely fall into a pit and be destroyed.

Principals

Everything in life operates off of the seed, plant, and harvest principle.

What the seed is that will the tree be, and what the parent is, so shall be the child.

If you have a commandment, be loyal to it. But more than the commandment look at the principles that brought the commandment into our lives. The foundation of every commandment is principle and purpose. Don't let the commandment be used in conflict with its intended and underlying purpose. Avoid those who strain at the gnat of legalism with no regard for the commandment of love.

We don't have the right to do what is wrong, even if it is legal.

Priorities

Priorities energize the flow of workmanship. If you want great things to happen, stop and examine your priorities.

My feet keep taking me to the place that my heart loves.

Life is more than pursuits.

Priorities are birthed from principles and values.

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If priorities are not set in your life, you will never be consistent or faithful to your conscience in times of difficulty or challenge.

If your job is only a paycheck to you, then you are overpaid. If money is your only goal, then you will in due time experience discontentment.

Prison

See Punishment

Whatever you imprison will imprison you.

There is a world of difference between the hardcore criminal and the person who has simply been caught being dishonest in some area. The hardcore criminal should have no privileges. His incentive to work should be a minimal privilege.

When it comes to the death penalty, it must remain an agonizing decision. However, when the decision is made, the task should be carried out within a year.

Privacy

There are certain things you should never allow your mate to see. It is a matter of dignity and respect for each other. When a couple loses this respect of privacy for each other, emotions are violated and everything becomes too common. This “commonness” is in the long run harmful because people thrive on variety and imagination. To become too common with your mate spoils that. In your attempts to get that mate, there was nothing common about you. What makes you think you can retain them by changing?

Respect determines how you handle the privacy of others.

Problems

You cannot always eliminate your circumstances, but you can choose the light through which you see them.

Problems can become a “mindset” if you are not careful. That mindset will make a mountain out of every molehill.

When I stopped looking for problems outside myself, it revolutionized my life.

You are not design to carry problems that you cannot solve. This is why faith in God is so important.

As I looked at the word calamity, I found the word calm within it. I believe that is true. In the midst of every problem there can be inner peace.

When you continue to repeat the problem, the problem gets repeated.

To most people, the definition of a problem is something that can't be solved with money.

Crisis doesn't make you better in the sense that it was a good experience for you. But what it did was make you dig deeper. It was your response to the crisis that made you better.

Procrastination

In communication there is power, but procrastination misses its window of opportunity.

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Progress

Progress is not always seen in self-profit. Sometimes it is seen in giving, helping and laying down your own life for another.

In light of progress, which is summed up in character, honor and integrity, it seems that the human race has slowed to a snail's pace.

We are deluged with modern conveniences and time saving devices, and yet, we don't have enough time to do what needs to be done. As I look at the pace of the 21st century I wonder if we are really better off.

Prominence

Prominence should be earned through a lifetime of integrity and honor. Give it gladly to those who have earned it, but let it be earned.

Promises

The person who is at the end of their resources will make promises from dreams.

A person who will lie to you will also steal from you.

Under promise, over deliver.

Promiscuity

It is true that promiscuity always takes you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and costs you more than you want to pay.

Promotion

Look for opportunities to promote those who labor with you. In doing so, you yourself will be promoted.

Just as it is a natural thing for the earth to bring forth fruit from the seed, so it is natural for the heart to produce when the Word of God has touched it.

Property

Land is almost always a sound investment.

Prophecy

Prophecy is not fortune telling. It is a glimpse into the purpose and plan of God for your life. Sometimes it is a “Now” word, and sometimes it is a “Future” word. Sometimes it is a “Confirming” word, and sometimes it is a “New” word.

Prosperity

There is plenty of wealth in the soil of the poor, but through lack of management and little foresight, they never bring it out.

Desire in itself is not enough.

Protection

The number one way to avoid danger and protect your self is to have a plan.

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Protocol

See Manners

Protocol is simply a matter of thinking ahead and using common sense and courtesy.

Proverbs

See Meditation

Proverbs reveal the hidden truths of heaven and earth.

Public Speaking

Don't replace style with substance. Public speaking is more than just giving information. It is an expression of truth, ideas, and personality. People want to hear you think.

Punctuality

To show honor to someone, be at least 10 minutes early for your appointment.

To be late for an appointment with a person is to declare that they hold no value to you. It is an insult and slander to their time.

Punishment

See Prisons

Without judgment, you will over-punish the innocent. Punishment is to do two things: first to correct, instruct, and turn those who can be corrected, and secondly, put away those who cannot.

In the days of the bible there were people who were just as dangerous as there are today. There were criminals who would murder, rape and destroy with no regard for life. But when it came to incarceration, their

options were limited. In that era, they had no real facilities to restrain someone for the rest of their life. You can only keep them in a tent so long. The problem was that when you had an individual who was that dangerous to the community there was no place for secure incarceration and punishment.

The death penalty is not necessary today as it was in the past. We have better facilities and resources to capture and punish wrong doers. A better solution is to make that person pay the penalty for his terrible transgression for the rest of his natural life. Not in the convenience of a cell with satellite and Internet, but rather a lifetime of hard labor. Seems to me that lethal injection lets them off the hook while the families of their victims suffer every moment for the rest of their lives. I see the death penalty as a step in the wrong direction. I would like to see it removed. Nevertheless, if one of our states chooses to keep it as law it must never be taken lightly and remain to them an agonizing process. However, when the decision is made, the task should be carried out within a year. The years of appeal and the millions of dollars are simply irresponsible.

Purpose

We are spirits having a human experience.

The thing that I am apart of is greater than the part I play.

There is a most definite purpose for your life, and as a result, you will stand in judgment for all of the things done in this body. Your purpose is realized in understanding the relationship between the spiritual world and the natural world. Before I go farther, let me say what your purpose is not. It is not to replenish the earth. It is not to gather wealth. It is not entirely true that you were put on this earth to have a relationship with God. He could take you to heaven to accomplish that. Your purpose in this life is to introduce the spiritual into the natural. Your assignment is to spiritualize the natural. The human being is the only thing that can do

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that. God brought both worlds together in one vessel to give man dominion and access into both worlds. We are made like a dam. We are dry on one side and wet on the other. One part of us is spiritual and one part is natural. All of the sensory tools of our bodies are merely vehicles for the expression of the spirit to fulfill our purpose in the natural. All of the strength and abilities of our body are to assist the pursuits of your call and purpose on this side of the dam. The flesh and spirit work in a partnership to commit virtuous acts, thereby spiritualizing the natural. I spiritualize something in the natural by doing a spiritual act using natural objects. For example, giving to the poor is using a natural, physical object to do a spiritual deed. To encourage someone to open themselves to the will and purpose of God, to play a musical instrument in spiritual worship brings both worlds together. Giving money for a spiritual purpose is spiritualizing all of your money or resources. When you understand this, all of your pursuits and contributions take on a whole new meaning. You become a channel from the world of the spirit to the world of the natural. You are a floodgate from the world of the spirit. Jesus properly lived in both worlds. His life was a mission. Everything that He did in this world was to introduce mankind to the world of the spirit. His was a life of divine appointments. Like a master craftsman, He utilized both worlds. Like Him, we all have a right to both worlds, which brings purpose to all of our deeds.

All the purpose of life is summed up in walking humbly before God, keeping his commandments, and serving one another.

Just as ignorance is a destructive force in your life, so is aimlessness. You must see the higher purpose. Everything else is simply the means to an end. If you don't understand the "whys", all of your achievements will leave you unfulfilled.

We must have a deeper revelation that we exist for other people. First of all for those who make our hearts smile, and then for the many who are unknown. To them we are bound by the ties of sympathy. This is the foundation on which our sense of inner equilibrium is built.

A cause is the key to a one's passions.

My greatest desire and the cry of my heart is to make a contribution to the needs of mankind. It pulls at my heart every day.

No one should use poverty or wealth as an excuse to not fulfill their purpose in life.

Every life needs a prime directive.

There are many plans in life but only one purpose for your life. Learn the difference.

Never stop growing or giving simply because you do not see the fruit that you expect. There are times when the fruit of one's life is produced out of season.

What is the highest purpose of a human being? What is our highest good as a human being? You can't always define it by the outward appearance. Look at electric wire. What is electric wire? I can't tell you what it is without introducing electricity. Its meaning can only be explained by introducing something bigger than the wire itself, and that is electricity. That wire has no other meaning than to receive, conduct, and express electricity. I can't tell you what a human being is without introducing God. We are in His likeness and have the capability of receiving, conducting, and expressing the full nature of God. We are incomplete unless we are hooked up with our creator. The only way to describe a human is to introduce something greater than himself. You know that because you are never satisfied with the "things" of life. If they made you a king, it wouldn't be long until you said, "Is this all there is?" Why? Because we are made to contain something bigger than ourselves. Let's suppose the electric wire declared itself independent of electricity. What would be left? Maybe we could use the wire as a rope.

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Sure we could do that, but that would be an insult to the inventor of the electric wire. It would be a great waste. What is the wire going to do now that it does not contain and conduct electricity? Maybe it can discuss how the brown wire is better than the gray wire. That is what happens when man loses his way. The purpose of man in his fullness can only be defined in his relationship with God.

There are many routes to your destination in life. Some routes are longer than others. One is beautiful and scenic while the other may be barren and dry. However, it is the same destination. All roads lead to it. You only have one destination in life. You either arrive or you don't. Obedience and a holy life keep you on the track to the shortest and most direct route. What is next for you is your obedience to rise to meet the needs of others. There are those who get lost and lose heart and sit down. They never seek to fulfill the plan for their life. They don't realize that if they will keep moving they will eventually reach their destination and fulfill the plan for their life.

To realize your purpose, you must see how great God is. Psalms 92 says that *"His works are great and thoughts are very deep."* God said in Jeremiah 1:5, *"Before I formed you in the belly, I knew you and ordained you."* God had you in mind before the foundation of the world. Psalms 139:17-18, and 40:5,17 tells us that *"His thoughts toward us are so many that they cannot be reckoned up in order, and they are more than can be numbered."* When you were born, your life came into being as a result of one of God's thoughts. That is the reason your personality is so individual. Your personality is as individual as your purpose. You were born with a purpose to fulfill. Each person fits into the plan of God like a puzzle. Each piece of the puzzle is one of His thoughts. There are no unimportant pieces. Each piece has its own uniqueness. Don't try to change who you are, or try to be like someone else. Realize the qualities that you have. Look at your personality, your abilities, gifts, and talents. God put them there. It was part of His thought when he thought of you.

Our decisions and actions birth destiny. The trophies of life are not to the slow to move or the weak of heart. They must be attained.

When I look through the scope of eternity and time, I find that it is unimportant that I lived. Many have accomplished that. More important is what I said and what I believe. That is what remains when I am gone.

Our life is no less an instrument than our voice. All that we do gives off a tone or color, but to God it is all musical. The human voice is an instrument that is higher in order above that of a hand held musical instrument, one that expresses meaning and thought. Now consider that our entire existence is a score that either brings beauty and resonance or confusion and disharmony. Each decision and act strums a cord.

All of God's creation is a continuum. The ethical and moral code of society is the thread that links us together in a good and positive way. You must understand that you are not an island to yourself. Sooner or later, everything that happens to you eventually affects the lives of the many people that you have never met. Everything in this physical world is charged with divine life and has a higher purpose than we can see with our natural eye.

We must have a deeper revelation that we exist for other people. First of all for those who make our hearts smile, and then for the many who are unknown. To them we are bound by the ties of sympathy. This is the foundation on which our sense of inner equilibrium is built.

It is a mistake to look on ease and comfort as an end unto itself. Our path is enlightened by kindness, beauty and truth, which is only expressed in a sense of kinship with the struggles of our fellowman.

The trite objects of human effort and modern day success leaves me a bit repulsed.

Q

Quality

Quarrels

Questions

Quietness

Quit

Quotations

Quality

See Excellence

Quality goes in before the name goes on. This is more than a cute saying; it is a principal of life. If quality is not your aim, you will soon compromise your product. All your goods will be second rate and so will your name.

The commitment to quality and excellence is a decision.

To maintain quality control, watch the process not the product. The process guarantees the product.

Quarrels

Most quarrels are the product of emotion rather than cause. It comes to the place that you don't know why, but your pride and stubbornness prevents you from making reconciliation. In the arena of life, you should never take a quarrel off of the field. You are going to get bumped and bruised. If you don't learn to drop it, you will live your life mad.

Questions

If you ask the right questions, you get the right answers. The successful people of life ask better questions.

New possibilities are opened up through asking the right questions.

Occasionally ask yourself the question, "If I don't do this, what will it cost me?"

Seeds of Life

Quietness

See Silence

There is a difference between quietness and silence. Silence is what you do. Quietness is a state of being, and the only door to the deeper things of the heart.

Thanksgiving for all of the goodness of God should be our reflection when we have the opportunity to enter the realm of quietness.

Noise is the distraction from all that is important. The natural conclusion of slowing things down is the absence of those things.

There is a still small voice that is waiting to be heard when you are quiet.

May you be blessed with moments of silence and hope. May quietness be your legacy.

In all that you do and become, guard your time of quietness and reflection.

Quit

There are times when a plan is aborted through outside means. You must know when to walk away from it and let it go. I don't look at this as quitting. It is just that the success of the entire plan does not usually rest on one individual or individual idea. In other words, other factors which are out of your control can cause it to go down. You must see that the project continues to merit your time. It is easy to get tied up in something and spend the rest of your life chasing dimes with dollars. This is usually because of a lack of judgment or because of pride. Don't let pride make your business decisions. You must discern the time to breathe life, time, and money into a project, and you must also know how to read the handwriting on the wall and to put it out of its misery.

There are many battles in each war. There will be another day. There will be another opportunity.

I've heard people say, never, never, never quit. I think more accurately it should be said, never, never, never stop.

If you do not think your plan through, you will get confused and pressured by the task. Then you will want to quit. Know what you are willing to do and know what you are willing to take before you make commitments.

Quotations

If you are going to quote an individual, try to do it as if that person were standing in front of you at the time. Try to feel what they felt and be true to the spirit and context of what they said.

R

Racism	Repentance
Radical	Reproach
Rationalization	Reputation
Reading	Respect
Reality	Responsibility
Reason	Retreat
Rebellion	Revenge
Rebuke	Revolutions
Receiving	Reward
Recognition	Ridicule
Reconciliation	Righteousness
Reform	Rights
Regret	Risk
Rejection	Rivalry
Relationships	Romance
Relatives	Routine
Relevance	Rudeness
Religion	Rumor

Racism

There is only one race of people on this planet. That is the human race. There are many nations represented, but only one race. To imply that there are many races suggest that one race of people is more advanced than others in the evolution and development of their lives.

Radical

The only time you draw response is when you are radical enough to challenge the trends of the hour.

When you are right with certainty and conviction, people get uncomfortable.

When was the last time someone in the middle of the road had an impact on your life?

Rationalization

Rationalization is a subconscious justification of a discreditable act.

Reading

See Books

I am convinced that a large library is not necessary. A small, well-selected library should meet all of your needs.

To truly read a book is to grasp the spirit of the writer and not just his words.

Reality

The experience of reality exists now. If you don't realize that, you are totally missing out on life. For instance, if peace isn't now, it isn't peace.

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It may be a promise, a hope, or a dream. You must embrace the moment you now live and allow peace to enter that moment.

The awareness of the world of the spirit is continually close to me. It seems that I can see into two worlds. I see or sense life on this plane as temporary and almost prop like. It is increasingly evident how unreal that this one-dimensional world really is by comparison to what I see. This whole setup is really quite primitive. The eye to enlighten our path, yes, eyes that are dark and see only in a limited way. Limbs to hinge and give simple mobility. Distinguishing grunts for the purpose of communication. We take the material from the ground we walk on, then shaping it into a useful tool or weapon, devising new ways to warm and make us comfortable. Celebrating new ways that we can make the weed of the ground more tasty. Running around on the exterior crust of this planet not realizing that with each step and deed we are measuring our stewardship, and that is all. It is almost comical. We scrape the dust off of the top of the ground and melt it into a metal form to propel or entertain us, then beat our chest over our wisdom as though we were the source of what we see.

In the midst of this earthly experience, I sense something that is more real, more fulfilling. A realm, a place we really belong. It is almost tangible to me. It feels like it is just beyond the veil, just enough that you have difficulty describing it. But Its life flows through me and I know that it is more real than I can describe. It has such depth and dimension. You can taste what you hear. It is an experience of perfect completeness.

When will my eyes be opened and my understanding complete? When will the tear in the fabric of life and death be revealed to me? When I see it, it will be familiar and it will bring change.

Reason

Reason outside the Word of God always results in unbelief.

Rebuke

Don't rebuke just for the sake of rebuking. It will make you appear as much of a fool as they.

You can see the level of a person's leadership by watching how they correct or rebuke someone.

Rebellion

Slothfulness breeds rebellion.

Receiving

It is difficult to receive with a closed fist. Blessings come to the open and liberal heart. Expect it and graciously say, "thank you."

Recognition

Find out where your contribution is celebrated and sow into them.

Always give recognition to those who labor alongside you. Sometimes it is the best paycheck that you could give them.

Reconciliation

You must be prepared to find the middle ground if you truly expect to be reconciled with the people you love.

True reconciliation is in the best interest of both parties.

Reform

Reform will never exceed the desire of the heart. True and lasting reform is a condition of a changed heart.

Seeds of Life

Regret

Regret is cruel. It keeps your most precious desires just out of reach.

My greatest regret is that I have not spent more time in thought.

Regret is the saddest of words. It is the product of a situation that was not thought out, the words and deeds that you cannot take back, that you spoke without counsel, or that you acted in haste.

It is a lot easier to change your “no” to a “yes,” than a “yes” to a “no.”

The decisions of youth are many times the regrets of old age.

One of my greatest regrets is that I did not commit more scripture to memory as a young man.

Rejection

It seems that what we fear most is rejection.

Relationships

See Dating, Marriage

When you first get acquainted with someone, learn to enjoy their company before you ask what they do for a living. Labels can have a tendency to cause us to either look down on them or not totally be ourselves when we are around them.

Every pot has a lid. For even the most unusual people, there is a partner that matches them.

Unvoiced expectations can be very destructive to your relationships.

True intimacy cost both sides everything.

Unspoken principles of the conscience are the foundation of relationships. Your relationships with people are only as good as the principles they are built on.

Wrong voices bring wrong choices, and iron sharpens Iron. If your life is not progressing, maybe your relationships need to be changed.

There are four kinds of people in relationships: those who add, subtract, multiply, and divide. You need to know who they are before you let them into your inner circle.

Relationships are built on vulnerability and not intelligence or perfection.

Not all relationships are for a lifetime. Some are seasonal. Some are simply there to help you move from one place or level to another. A wise person discerns when a relationship starts and when it ends. To not understand this is to become imprisoned and ineffective.

The direction of your life is determined by your relationships because they speak into your ear in the time of change.

The choices you make are under the influence of the voices that you hear, and your choices determine your destiny.

There are inner circles and outer circles in relationships. Always keep the door unlocked to both areas.

Seeds of Life

You have to have a link to create a flow.

Cold cultured people are task oriented, and warm cultured people are relational. If you want to relate to cold cultured people, you have to chop wood with them.

Relationships are birthed from the pool of fellowship.

Sometimes in your relationships you will find that tares are present. A tare is a biblical term about people who have been wounded in some way and never healed. They become bitter and destructive to everyone with whom they develop a relationship. Yet their roots are entwined with people around them. Be careful how you move them out of your life. They will certainly take someone with them.

To be caught in a clique is to be rendered ineffective and restricted. No one can get in and no one can get out.

When you are on a first date, make arrangements for a short one, maybe just lunch. The less expected from you at a time like this, the better.

The only time a “Blind Date” should take place in your life is if the person you are going to date has a visual impairment.

To take your time in a relationship allows the other person to know that he or she is worth the time.

In your pursuit for relationship, look beyond the surface. It is inward beauty that is lasting.

To burn a bridge is to assume you will never have to cross that river again. This could cost you in the long run.

Illusions are dangerous in relationships. They have no flaws.

It is better to be alone than to wish you were.

When it comes to letting people know you, remember that people love a mystery.

Don't underestimate the destructive power of disappointments. Each disappointment creates negative momentum and becomes a very destructive force to your relationships. Always keep your word to your family. It is better not to make promises than to leave your family with the bitter taste of disappointments.

The most important thing in the world is people. The access to our future is found in relationship. All promotions certainly come from God but it comes through people. So to those people I want to discover the power of giving myself through vulnerability, transparency and dependency and to join in a partnership with my fellowman thereby empowering them to reach their highest potential in the context of love and purpose. I want to create a flow that brings people together in relationship with vision and opportunity, to produce optimism that causes people to continue to reach for their dreams.

Relationships require effort. Most everything of value does. I don't mean that it has to be difficult, but that it will take investment. Pick up the phone, drive across town/state/country...make some effort. Not too many wonderful memories were created sitting in front of the TV. This is going to be a great week..... **Enjoy every minute of it.** determine in advance to enjoy and appreciate every minute of it!.determine in advance to enjoy and appreciate every minute of it!

Seeds of Life

Relatives

Relatives are a real blessing if they know when to go home.

To preserve a family is a decision. Decide in advance to give of yourself to preserve the relationship between you and your relatives. This will give a sense of stability and belonging to your children.

Relatives are important because the bond of trust and commitment is generally greater within the boundaries of kin.

Relevance

When we cease to be relevant in this life, it is time to go. I believe that's why most people die when they do.

Religion

See God

Israel carried the iron brazen serpent for 800 years and only saw it work once.

When the prodigal son said, "*I will become your servant*", he was attempting to earn his father's love.

It was such a blessing to find out that God is not religious. Only man can ruin a relationship like that.

Religion is man's search for God. Through religion you will never find Him, because even though religion appears to reach out to God, it actually puts a breach between man and God.

Religion will cause you to spend your entire life focused on yourself.

Trying to be like Christ independent of His grace is religion.

Repentance

One of the greatest secrets in life is to learn to be quick to repent.

Repentance is a condition of the heart. When the heart is yielded, repentance will be sincere and easy.

Genuine and sincere repentance overcomes all barriers.

Reproach

Reproach and dishonor are sisters. Carefully weigh your decisions, for each decision takes you down a road to honor or dishonor.

Reputation

Carefully weigh each thing that you do, for no matter where you go, your reputation will eventually follow.

The best way to see where a man is going is to look at where he has been.

Your reputation is a mirror of your habits and routines.

I cannot think of a greater and more important commodity than a good reputation. It is a long time in building. Honor is its fruit.

Neither the best nor the worst of what people say are true. You usually find them somewhere in the middle.

Seeds of Life

My goal in life is not to build a successful business, church, or ministry; it is rather to build a successful life. That is a condition of the heart. That kind of success is described as honor, integrity, wisdom, dependability, and holiness. These are the things I desire.

Respect

I recall at a senior graduation that a young graduate wore cutoff jeans. I was stunned. It was the greatest event of his life up to that time, and he wore a pair of cut off blue jeans. It occurred to me that people don't dress up for an event because they do not understand nor respect the event. Neither do they respect the people at the event. I wondered if this young man was so unfilled that he would disgrace the honor of the graduation by trying to draw attention to himself or if he was simply too lazy to care for his appearance. In any event, it made me realize that I should always maintain an appearance that is worthy of my reputation and respectful to my peers.

It is demoralizing to pay respect to the rich because he is rich. Make him also earn your respect.

Nicknames do not belong in the work place.

Love without respect will eventually expire.

Never call your pastor by his first name. Don't take him out of the role as your spiritual father for someday you will need a pastor.

It is polite to use a person's official title when talking about, introducing, or talking to them, even if they no longer hold that position.

If you don't listen to someone, it is because you don't respect his or her authority.

If you don't have the foundation of respect for other people and their rights, you will never excel to the higher level of love for them.

The individual who does not understand respect will abuse and misuse everyone and everything that he encounters. We must respect every living thing. We must respect the environment, the nature around us, and the air we breathe. The hunter must respect wild life, and the timber cutter the forest. You are not so likely to abuse the things around you if you have respect for them.

People do not show respect because they lack appreciation. They do not have a thankful heart.

Responsibility

See Stewardship

There is an inner need for personal labor and responsibility. Through this God has bestowed upon us His greatest gift, which is the ability to give of yourself to others. This makes us partners with Him in the care and development of His creation.

There are some things in life that you will never look forward to handling, but to put it off only makes it worse.

The cold facts of duty strip the worth and joy from your calling. Rethink why you do what you do.

It is wrong to give someone responsibility without authority.

There are spiritual implications to all of your actions.

Seeds of Life

If it falls your lot to handle the financial affairs of another individual, show respect to all that they went through to earn it.

As with anything of value, if they have not earned it they will not love it, nor will they preserve it.

Retreat

Learn to retreat if it is necessary for the moment. Sometimes a new footing is necessary to establish a new hold. Refusal to retreat for any reason is rooted in pride and stubbornness. It is the work of a fool.

Revenge

See Hatred

The cup of revenge is never full.

Revenge is a cruel taskmaster.

People don't do things to you. They do them for themselves.

One of the greatest causes of personal destruction that I know is to put your hand against other people. It is the quickest way to turn off the blessings and protection from your life. Even if someone asks your opinion, don't get trapped into speaking against other people. It may feel good for the moment, but if you offend them and they cry out to the Lord, it will cost more than it was worth. Be at peace with all men, especially the household of faith. Don't be harsh, critical, rude, condescending, or impatient with others. Rather be gentle, patient, kind, and merciful. Choose not to believe the bad report about others, and when it is proven, reserve your comment for another day. Return good for evil, for the Lord is the avenger of such.

Revolutions

See Government, War

A successful revolution should look like the slow grind of time.

Any revolution is actually one of ideas and thought. The overthrowing of a government and the shedding of blood is not the revolution, but rather the means to enforce the revolution. Without a real change of the former, the latter is nothing more than lawlessness and destruction. Many governments have been overthrown by war lords, but they themselves did not have the ideas and thought to sustain themselves once they were in power. A revolution by nature is violent, but a true revolution is one of ideas and thought.

It seems to be in the nature of men for the oppressed to become what they hated. All they need is a little authority. As they assume the role of oppressor, their victims then look for a revolution.

After every revolution, you are still left with the virus of bureaucracy. Unless these parasites are restrained, they will spoil and corrupt any new government that comes into rule.

Reward

Reward should accompany every act of obedience.

Ridicule

To ridicule someone is a mean act. When you consistently find this trait in someone, beware. There is a flaw in their spirit. As a general rule, they are not loyal to anyone except themselves, and many times it stems from a hatred for themselves. They will sell you out if the price is right.

Seeds of Life

Righteousness

See God, Religion

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you have received His righteousness. It is simply what you are. You cannot help it. It has nothing to do with conduct. You are unconditionally received. You are in right standing with God on the merit of His grace. Although it seems difficult to say, I believe this trait should be found in us in relationship to those we love.

When individuals understand righteousness in terms of instruction, statutes and commands, they have a tendency then to focus on rules rather than character.

Rights

See Government

What are your rights and why do you have them? Who gave them to you? If you cannot answer this, then it is just the same as if you never had any rights.

When you take the human element out of the picture, you are left with cold and heartless rules that violate their intended purpose.

Risk

If the highest aim of a pilot is to protect his plane, he will never take it out of the hanger. The highest aim of your life is not just to keep what you have. Risk is involved in any worthwhile adventure. Risk is the spice of the challenge.

If you are not willing to take risk, you live in a diminishing world.

You mitigate risk through information.

Romance

See Relationships, Marriage

Intimacy and romance are the greatest features of our relationship with the Lord.

The first sign of death to a relationship is to let romance die.

Practice being romantic with the one you love. Otherwise you will forget how.

Routine

Your routine today is declaring what you will become tomorrow.

Develop the routines for your life until they become second nature to you.

Rudeness

See Manners

Rudeness is unnecessary. It generally stems from an inflated ego and very poor manners.

Rumor

See Lies

Show your friend honor by not believing the rumors against them.

S

Sacrifice	Silence
Sacred	Simplicity
Sarcasm	Sin
Safety	Sincerity
Salvation	Skill
Science	Slavery
Secrets	Sleep
Seeds	Slothfulness
Self	Smiles
Self appraisal	Socialism
Self confidence	Solitude
Self control	Son ship
Self delusion	Sorrow
Self denunciation	Spending
Self discipline	Sportsmanship
Self esteem	Stability
Self improvement	Standards
Self interest	Statesmanship
Selfishness	Stealing
Self justification	Stewardship
Self love	Stinginess
Self pity	Strength
Self praise	Stress

Self punishment

Self respect

Self restraint

Sermons

Service

Sexuality

Shame

Sharing

Short cuts

Sickness

Struggle

Stubbornness

Stupidity

Submission

Success

Suffering

Suicide

Survival

Suspicion

Sympathy

Seeds of Life

Sacrifice

There is no meaningful crown of victory without sacrifice. Sacrifice is the way we know value.

Sacred

See God, Worship

Don't exploit your crown for polluted use. It will lower its meaning and significance. It will leave you with a powerless crown.

Sarcasm

Sarcasm eventually becomes grief to the soul. You are better than that.

Safety

Safety only takes a moment to ensure. Isn't that a good investment for the sake of yourself and those who love you the most? If anything happens to you, it happens to them too.

We don't take time for safety because we are too lazy and undisciplined.

Protect yourself by being aware of your surroundings. When you go into a building, out of a building, into a parking lot, or where ever danger might be lurking, be attentive of everything that moves. Look for movement. The ones who get hurt are the ones who are careless and not aware of their surroundings. Alertness could save your life.

Alertness and common sense are your best defense.

Don't get so comfortable with your surroundings that you cease to be aware of your surroundings.

Salvation

Salvation is not free. The cost was very, very high. Jesus paid it for you. He satisfied the claims of justice to the fullest degree. All you have to do is to receive Jesus and what He has done for you to reap its full benefit.

Science

Science is a search to find and study the laws that God instituted in the running of this physical universe. It is merely a search to observe the way that God thinks.

The discovery of disease is the discovery of life out of balance with its creator.

Secrets

There is not a man loyal to your secret. I know not one. All that you say in secret will be spoken to another. In the end, you will bear the shame. So let silence be on your lips, and speak only what you want all to hear.

Better is the regret of having not spoken than the regret of what everyone hears. When it is spoken you cannot take it back, and the strength of your honor shall faint. As for the Lord, He is faithful and His mercy is everlasting.

Never trust even the closest of friends with words that you don't want told, for though they swear, they cannot hold it.

Let your responses be few, for without fail they will be rehearsed and you will pay for them.

Seeds of Life

Why would you laden a friend with the burden of a secret? The responsibility that accompanies the secret is not a kind thing to do to anyone.

Seed

What you desire is your harvest. What is your seed?

Everything operates off of the seed, plant, harvest, principle.

The heart only knows to grow what it receives. Just like its counterpart, the earth. It doesn't care if it is a peach seed, apple seed or water melon seed. It only knows to break that seed open and begin to grow it. It will attempt to grow a fence post if you put it in the ground. That is why the wood rots. It is attempting to break it down and grow what you have put in the ground. That is what life does. Whatever filters through your head into your heart, the heart tries to grow. What you see and talk about is what your heart produces. That is one reason for holiness. It keeps you pure from things that contaminate the field of the heart. Holiness has to do with conduct. It is a self induced filter. It is a decision to abstain from things that contaminate your field.

Self

Learn to love yourself. You might find someone wonderful.

We become what we see on the inside. The inner image of self is the description of our internal capacity.

The true measure of a human being is seen in how much he has attained liberation from self.

To change a person you must change what they see of themselves. This will change the boundaries of their life.

Self appraisal

We tend to see ourselves a bit more dynamic and impressive than we really are. On one hand, this occasionally causes disappointment; but on the other hand, it's what keeps us advancing and reaching beyond ourselves.

You can't see what you are made of unless you are under fire. How you respond when everything is going wrong exposes your real strengths and weaknesses.

Who am I when everything has been stripped away? Am I the role I play of husband, father, friend, comforter and lover? Am I the slayer of the giant in battle? Am I my virtues or my sins? Am I my accomplishments or my fears? The greatest and most meaningful lessons in life are the ones we learn about ourselves.

Self-confidence

I believe this to be our best-dressed illusion.

Self-control

If you are ever facing a crisis, composure is the first step to defusing the situation.

No one has been given more self-discipline or self-control than anyone else. It is just that it has been dissipated running after other things.

Never lose your nerve, your temper, or your resolve.

Self-delusion

Most delusions are about self, aren't they?

Seeds of Life

Self-denunciation

Self-denunciation is hypocritical.

Self-discipline

To truly understand self-discipline you must understand its boundaries. First of all, what is your purpose? There is a point to where self-imposed discipline becomes bondage to you and everyone around you. However, to be without it is to be a servant to every wind that blows. You must understand why before you can understand how much.

Teach people correct principles and they will know how to govern themselves.

Self-esteem

See Identity

If your value is only determined by the applause of another, then all of your happiness will be in another's keeping.

Understand who you are, and what others think won't matter that much.

Do not judge your self-worth on the basis of possessions. To have or not to have does not determine your value. Greatness is in the heart of man and not in the position or possession that he holds.

Self-denial was once regarded as a worthwhile virtue, but now it seems that all of our attention is on self-fulfillment. You cannot find your life until you give it away.

Self image is a description of our self, while self esteem is an evaluation of our self. It is important to know the difference.

Self-improvement

The barriers of life can only be breached if you are strong enough to live on the other side of them. Let each event in life be a lesson from which you draw wisdom.

Growth is natural and easy. Development is hard.

Self-interest

Self-interest makes crybabies out of all of us. It is a convenient virus that results in weakness and distraction. I believe society needs a vacation from its hobbies.

Selfishness

The motivation of all selfishness is fear.

All inappropriate behavior is rooted in selfishness.

It is a mistake to look on ease and comfort as an end unto itself. Our path is enlightened by kindness, beauty and truth, which is only expressed in a sense of kinship with the struggles of our fellowman.

The trite objects of human effort and modern day success leave me a bit repulsed.

Self-justification

Self-justification is blind.

Self justification has just enough truth to sooth the conscience and justify ones actions. It is amazing how much broader and more detailed

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the picture usually is. You must be aware of hidden agendas when handling someone's self justification.

Self-love

Self-love only works if you learn to give more than you take.

As you become more valuable to yourself, you become more valuable to others.

Self-pity

Self-pity is a virus that continues to grow.

Self-praise

The seed of self-praise is insecurity.

Self-punishment

Self-punishment results from a feeling of unworthiness and inward frustration. You understand nothing about God's grace.

If you are in constant conflict with yourself, how can you ever expect to be in harmony with anyone else?

Self-respect

I wonder if self-respect is ever truly acquired.

Self-restraint

I believe self-restraint to be one of the greatest virtues in life.

Self-worth

My worth is anchored in something deeper than the things that I do. It is in who I am.

Sermons

See Ministry, Public Speaking

A sermon or speech that doesn't make the heart connection with the people is lifeless and flat. There must be a touch of passion in what you are saying.

Service

Merit and virtue are best revealed in service toward others.

If your company is going to offer service to your customers, then make it available on nights and weekends when customers will likely need it.

Sexuality

See Husband and Wife

The best word to describe sexuality is in the word "knowledge." Sex is intimate knowledge that is shared by two people. Without proper respect and understanding about this, sexual boundaries will become blurred and sexuality will lose its purity and intimacy. It will become a mere bodily function that selfishly takes advantage of others for the benefit of one's own physical use.

Married couples that abstain from sexual intimacy are drifting apart.

If the history of human behavior has shown us anything, we see that in whatever a society immerses itself, they will soon become. If a culture immerses itself in casual, illicit, sexual behavior, they will soon become

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adrift on a sea of moral irresponsibility. We must draw a line of separation in our lives even if it appears old-fashioned.

Abstinence until marriage and one partner for life is the only true “safe sex.”

Sex is very important to a married relationship. From time to time, every relationship suffers from a lack of communication and closeness. For one reason or another, you hit a wall. You can't even get conversation going with each other. You feel unattached. Sexuality brings a few moments of intimacy that surpasses the roadblocks that seem to be before you. It gives you an opportunity to be intimate even in the midst of difficulties. Sexuality is communion between a husband and wife. Communion is the intimacy of partaking of another person. If held in the proper context, this time of intimacy can bring healing to your marriage.

Because of unbridled sexual passion, many lives have been destroyed. As a result, wives have a broader role than they realize. They are not just sexual partners with their husbands. They are also guardians. Sometimes he has sexual feelings that can seem overwhelming to him. She, in most cases can help her husband onto a proper path, if she is involved. If she is not involved, he faces the battle alone, and this is where the sexual desire and imagination becomes destructive. It is important that the husband and wife communicate with each other and give the freedom to be vocal about their sexual desires. This venting will be a gage for the wife to keep tabs on where her partner is. Find out what he is thinking and try to help him keep his desires in order. There is nothing wrong with being a sexual person. There is nothing wrong with sexual passion. Just don't allow yourself or your mate to become enslaved to it. Every so often, a wife should sit down with her husband and talk about his sexual desires, as well as share her own. More importantly, you keep an overview of what he has been thinking about. The wife should be the guardian of her husband's passion. Remember that you cannot gauge any situation effectively without information. Involve God in your family and ask him to help you in this area. He will help regulate

anything that gets out of hand. Go with the flow, embrace your own boundaries and explain why. Don't violate your conscience. Keep your sexuality exciting and fun. Refuse to let your mate think about anybody else in terms of sexual fulfillment.

A woman will give sex to get love. A man will give love to get sex.

The sexual appetite of attraction is very shortsighted, shallow and one dimensional. The same is true with any appetite that draws you out of balance.

Shame

The loss of shame has poisoned our entire culture.

What a shame when we refused to listen.

Sharing

You are not afraid to share because you trust that God is your source.

Short Cuts

See Slothfulness

Short cuts are a deception.

Sickness

Fear advances disease.

The discovery of sickness and disease is the discovery of life out of balance with its creator.

Seeds of Life

Silence

See quietness

There is a vocabulary of silence. If you can learn to use it, it will say volumes about you.

Silence sometimes speaks louder than any words. Its company is often more healing than words of advice.

Simplicity

If something is too complicated, it is a strong indication that it is probably wrong in some area. Truth is not complicated.

I once knew a man named Glenn. He stayed with us quite a bit when I was a young boy. Many people considered him simple, but they didn't realize that Glenn's beauty was in his simplicity. He brought something wonderful to our family. I think of him from time to time and I miss him.

In life's simplicities are wonders and fullness of the soul, but a person's passion will blind their eyes.

Sin

All sin is selfish.

Sin is to be disobedient to your heart.

Sincerity

Being sincere is not enough. Sometimes you can be sincerely wrong.

Skill

Make the decision that in whatever you do, you will ascend to the level of “Master Craftsman.”

Slavery

It is interesting to me that the men who founded this nation on the idea of freedom and liberty found it palatable to be slave owners. This just shows that each individual is a little more passionate about their own freedom than they are someone else's. As the matter of fact we can become downright hypocritical when it comes to our own comfort.

It is unfortunate, but as long as there is greed and pride there will always be slavery in some form or fashion. The only thing that prevents or holds it back is fear of one's own imprisonment.

Sleep

Discipline of the mind will cause sleep to come upon demand, but in the multitude of thoughts there is restlessness.

With 24 hours in a day, 1/3 is for sleeping. It must be important. Yet sleeping is criticized. The bedroom tends to be the last place we put our money. I believe that 2/3 of your life go better if you deal with the 1/3 in the bedroom.

Slothfulness

See Short cuts

There is an abundance of wealth, but the slothful cannot see it.

If you are becoming slothful in your affairs, then you should go on a fast for a few days to break that spirit away from you. Hunger seems to be the only thing that affects it.

Seeds of Life

The slothful always has an excuse, and his reasoning brings him to poverty.

Smiles

See Laughter

A frown is grief to everyone you see, but a smile is a blessing and doorway to all that you will ever need.

The greatest physical attribute of a person is their smile.

When you pose for a camera, never allow your smile to be prefabricated. Rather think of something or someone that you really love, and your smile will be genuine.

I have always let my girls know that they make my heart smile.

Socialism

The problem with Socialism is that you eventually run out of everybody else's money. It is a flawed concept.

Society

I was watching daytime television. Something very sad occurred to me. We have shifted from watching outward oddities and physical deformities as they did at the circus in past years to watching emotional deformities. It has become politically incorrect to gawk at outward defects, but with great ease we watch emotional defects and deformities. It's another day at the circus. It is actually quite pitiful.

Solitude

Solitude and isolation are the fertile ground for the deep soil of our spirit to produce.

Son-ship

Worthiness does not bring son-ship. You don't merit that position. Our boasting is in Christ alone.

The Father – Son relationship is a relationship of equality. *John 5:17-18*

Sorrow

Sorrow will make your bones brittle. It will make your whole life brittle. Don't let it become a part of you.

Spending

See Money, Stewardship

When making purchases try to use cash. When you use your credit card, it isn't the same as when you lay cash out on the table. We tend to hold the cash with a tighter grip.

If you want to look into the window of a person's character, watch their spending. It is there that you see pride, fear, greed, insecurity, love, or commitment.

Don't spend more than you make. Make the decision to spend less than you make. If you don't have the money to pay for it, then you don't need it. Try to make spending the exception rather than the rule, and you will have plenty to sustain yourself in your old age.

Seeds of Life

Sportsmanship

Isn't it interesting that sportsmanship seems to only be measured by your loss and defeat? Actually it is not, but it seems that way because that is the time your conduct is so visible. Sportsmanship is a gentlemen's conduct. It has to do with manners and courtesy. Uncontrolled temper is not a part of any game. Only the lower-class player violates the law of manners, courtesy, and respect.

When the lower class element becomes involved in any sport, the first thing to disappear is courtesy and manners.

Stability

Prosperity does not come to the tree that is continually transplanted.

Standards

Let the standards for which you are judged be your own and not another's.

Statesmanship

Our country needs more Statesmen. It is the cry of a nation for stability. For this reason, I am opposed to term limits in the political arena.

It is the encounter of the events of life that makes a Statesman.

Stealing

To steal is a declaration that you do not believe God to meet your needs.

Stealing comes from a poverty mentality. This mentality will blind you to your own resources and capability. It will have you steal something when you could just as easily have purchased it yourself. It becomes a prison.

Stewardship

There is no such thing as volunteer help in the Kingdom of God, only obedient or disobedient stewards.

Your stewardship is to position you for the next life.

What do you do with a king that refuses to be king? You are a king. Your kingdom is your life. Your realm is the things that God has put into your hands. This is realized in what we do with our time, talent, and energy. This also includes the people with whom we deal. This is the realm of our influence. What do you do with that realm? You must be willing to see the boundaries and also perceive when it is time to expand.

To expect money for bread that has already been eaten and to expect work when money has already been given declares that overall we are nearsighted and gullible.

A man who does not know the affairs of his estate will see his wealth slip through his fingers like a bird from its cage. It will fly away, and he will not have the power to retain it.

Compulsion is an enemy of wealth. When possible, never buy a product the first time you see it.

Although the seller boasts, the value of a thing is only determined by what someone is willing to pay.

Money is easier spent than it is earned. To live on all of your income and to eat your seed is the work of fools. Poverty shall never depart from your house.

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The man who parties and spends shall surely know lack.

To buy what you don't really need is to be a thief to your own resources.

The bitterness of a better deal will generally leave you empty-handed, for you get what you pay for; no more, no less.

How can God bless your storehouse if you don't have one?

I have come to the conclusion that no one spends your money like other people. Don't let other people tell you what you need.

Stinginess

There is a big difference between being fearful and being thrifty. A person who is fearful will hoard their substance, and in the end they will be empty and alone. The liberal soul trusts in the Lord and shall be made fat.

Strength

Exhaustion will cause the strongest of men to faint and lose heart.

The strength of religion is legalism. The strength of relationship is commitment. The strength of society is in its families and the strength of families is love.

Meanness is only a poor and misguided copy of strength.

What many people call weakness is sometimes strength, and what is believed to be strength is many times weakness.

Stress

Stress starts with the mind. That is where you find the administration of priorities and desires.

Struggle

It was struggle and victory over struggle that put individuals in our history books. History called them great because of how they responded in time of struggle.

True advance is only obtained through struggle.

If confronted, hardness develops character and enlarges our capacity to carry others. This is the true purpose of life.

Some people are continually going through tests, purging and emptying out. While that is part of the growth process, it can become a lifestyle, while peace and fullness becomes illusionary. Life with God is not just a test. Purging shouldn't take forty years.

What made the chicken strong enough to live outside the egg was the struggle to break the egg from the inside.

The only difference between a stepping stone and a stumbling stone is how high you lift your feet.

If all of your actions are truly directed toward God and for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven, then you will take no thought to the hardships that come your way.

The greatest problem with inner struggles is the distraction it becomes to you. You lose your focus on everything that is important around you.

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This is the problem with any work of the flesh, such as hatred, jealousy, and it is even worse in the area of sexual misconduct, because it is so closely related to what feels good. It is easy to yield to, and that is all that it takes to develop into a stronghold in your mind, will and emotions. Oh how the mighty have fallen, and many of them over nothing more than an uncontrolled thought. Imagine that, captive, not to a person, but to a thought. We must understand the power of the word “NO”!

Stubbornness

To be stubborn is to make an idol out of your opinion. To manipulate, intimidate, or dominate someone is a work of the flesh called witchcraft.

A stubborn man is bound in a prison called opinion.

Gentle speech and gentle restraint are often the only effective tools against stubborn opposition.

Stupidity

I find this trait in some of the most educated people that you would ever meet. Stupidity is best summed up in the reckless mishandling of other people. Stupidity is a decision that is made without the insight of how it affects others.

Submission

Submission can be as much a sign of strength as it is weakness.

Submission is to honor the mission of another so much that you would submit to it. You must determine whose mission it is, and what it will cost you. Submission will bring you into co-mission.

Success

See Stewardship

Fools' gold is for fools. Every rung of the ladder of success is earned. If you cheat to achieve it, you will lack the depth to retain it. The dues that you pay earn you the right and strength to stay.

No successful man stands alone. A lot of people held the ladder for him. Remember to show appreciation to your staff for even the little things that they do.

No one succeeds in business in the long run that misrepresents or deceives his public.

Success without fulfillment is not success.

A successful person is always reaching further than they can grasp.

Suffering

See Euthanasia, Pain

Always do everything within your power to relieve suffering wherever you find it. You can't do everything, but you can do something. You can give, you can comfort, you can soothe, or you can pray. Make the decision to help relieve their pain.

Suicide

See Euthanasia

Suicide is a horrible thing. My heart breaks for the pain and torment someone must be going through to consider suicide. We must not be too quick to make judgments about them. I do not believe that if a person commits suicide that it determines their eternal destiny. The fact is, none of us know what happens when that person steps out of this

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life. I do know one thing. God is just. He is merciful. No, it is more than that. There is no end to His tender mercies. His loving kindness is from everlasting to everlasting. It is not His will that any should perish. Suicide by itself does not send anyone to hell. Not only is that a cruel thing to say about someone, but also it is a very cruel thing to say to their family members that are left behind. Let us never be caught up in the trap of judgment in areas of which we are ignorant.

I find spontaneous actions to be a phenomenon.

Survival

Between survival and ideology, you will find that survival will come first. This is very important when it comes to the negotiation of future events.

Suspicion

Suspicion is a tool used by a craftsman, but woe to the one who becomes its servant.

Sympathy

See Death

Sympathy can be very tricky. Too much becomes insincerity and causes them to stay in their dilemma. Yet every crisis situation needs a pinch of it. It is not an ugly word unless it is overdone. Be sincere in your approach to them, and let them know that your heart hurts for them. Don't let your conversation tie them to the pain. Rather, let your words be a rope of hope and encouragement that they can grab hold of. You can't always pull them out too quickly, or they will let go of what you are saying and fall back. Listen to your heart and wait until the timing is right. Sometimes silence is the only response you can have. The aim is to pull them out of what they are going through. That's what friends are for.

Spirituality

See God, Faith

You cannot continue to do the things of the flesh and expect to successfully live in the spirit.

You are a spirit being that is having a physical experience.

T

Tact

Talent

Tardiness

Taste

Taxes

Teachers

Team spirit

Temper

Temptation

Thankfulness

Theories

Thoughts

Time

Tolerance

Traditions

Travel

Treasures

Treachery

Troubles

Trust

Truth

Tyranny

Tact

See Wisdom

To alienate someone on purpose is the work of a fool. Let your conversation always be seasoned with grace.

Talent

See Ability

Talent is not enough to put you over. I have seen desire and hunger flat outstrip talent on the playing field. Do not allow a lack of talent to determine how far you go in life. Most talented people that I have seen in life got caught in the trap of deception. Everything came too easy for them. They thought they could pull it off at the last minute. Remember; the prize is to the hungry.

God may give you talent, but you have to develop your skill.

Tardiness

Being late becomes a way of life. It is a reproach to your reputation and honor. It will cast a bad light on everything about you. With rare exception, the only reason that you are tardy is because you did not plan ahead. It is as simple as that.

Taste

Culture and taste are developed. Always be open to change and stay current.

Taxes

See Government, Politics

There is no way that a nation can tax itself into prosperity. In all of history, no nation has ever accomplished that.

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Government has the ability to become a machine that cost more to run than it is worth. It will cost you all that you can beg, borrow, and steal just to keep it going. Any government agency or legislation that takes more than it gives should be eliminated.

The raising of taxes for government spending is the laziest, most non-creative piece of legislation that can be produced. It requires no imagination or effort whatsoever.

It seems immoral to penalize the rich because he is rich. It is an unreasonable demand that a man give up half of everything that he has worked 16 hours a day, 7 days a week for most of his life, and be forced to carry the person who barely has the gumption to go to his mail box and get his government check, and is in that condition for the most part because he is simply too lazy to ever do more than complain because someone else isn't feeding him, clothing him and carrying his load. We have rewarded people for slothfulness and indiscretion. A tax without mutual responsibility becomes unjust, and the politician who would levy a tax on this level is irresponsible and misguided in his management and spending.

Teachers

Who in our society is more important than our teachers and educators? They should be the elite in every aspect.

There is no greater investment for a nation than in its teachers, for excellence always costs more. But poor education cost most.

A student is launched by what his teacher is willing to see in him.

You only retain what you teach.

The true educator is a miner of precious gems.

Children are choice, prime soil. They will grow just about anything.

You must be patient in teaching. Consider the comprehension of your students and teach accordingly.

To encourage talent is to bring down walls of fear and insecurity, thus allowing genius to come out.

God has given you something to teach and the responsibility to teach it.

Team spirit

You can be a great and talented player in life, but unless you can learn discipline and operate within a system, you can't continue to win in the long haul. The flare of ability and shooting from the hip looks flashy, but it steals from the strengths of unity and team play. You may do well for a while, and even look outstanding, but you lack the marathon strengths to continue winning. Most great things in life result from team play and being disciplined within a plan.

We are not here to compete. We are here to complete.

Combine your ideas.

You can't forecast chemistry, but when you get it, recognize it and cultivate it and you will be unstoppable.

Seeds of Life

Temper

A person who can keep their temper in check can defuse most any unpleasant or hostile situation.

Temptation

Temptation is neither good nor bad. It simply reveals what is really in your heart. It is a mirror whereby we measure ourselves. It presents us with a choice to purge ourselves and thereby change our direction.

Thankfulness

There is never a night that my head hits the pillow that I don't say, "Thank you God, for my girls."

I count the fact that I am privileged to be alive as a gift from God for which I am thankful. It is an opportunity and a blessing. I enjoy every second and cherish every moment.

There is always enough for today, so pause and give thanks.

Take time to remember the good things that have happened to you and give thanks.

Be thankful and acknowledge those who have helped you.

Theories

Everybody has a theory. You have a right to yours.

Thoughts

Thoughts are the pathway from your inner self.

The common denominator in most all of the great men and women of history is that they spent a great deal of time in thought.

Time

See Stewardship

The greatest investment of your time is in thought.

There is nothing slow about the grind, nor the determined passage of time. Its unrelenting march pushes you forward without discrimination. Each segment of time comes to you and leaves you with the knowing that whatever your present situation, it will soon pass, and the only part of it that remains is the fragrance that we call memories. The passage of time is inevitable. It has no response to our reaction or cries to break its stride. It grieves us with the knowledge that our coming end cannot be stopped nor slowed. It gives us hope with the knowing that our present sorrows will soon be behind us, and our endurance will carry us to another place in time. Stewardship is the only thing that makes sense in the consideration of time. It is our passageway to the next realm where time cannot be measured. There we will not experience the passage of time, rather the state of being.

God has never overloaded our schedule. That's not the issue. Is your treasure in the right place?

Time is a creation of God used to measure our discipline and stewardship. This is its whole purpose for existence.

Don't be afraid of the passage of time. It will reveal your strengths.

Be aware of those who have too much time to spend for they will spend yours too.

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Occasionally set aside a portion of time to waste.

Almost everything in life is found in timing.

The telephone and computer are wonderful inventions and tools of convenience. Don't let them interrupt and disturb the important moments of your life.

Time is either spent or invested. Once it is gone, it will never be recovered.

The definition of time is change.

Time only flies when it is scarce.

Yesterday is past. Tomorrow is future. Today is a gift. That is why we call it the "present." Cherish each moment of it. It truly is a gift.

If you want to control your life, or anyone else's for that matter, control their time.

If you want to get a look at what you do with your time, spend three days with a note pad. What did I do and how much time did it take.

A year is much longer to a ten year old than it is to a fifty year old. The ten year old is only looking at one tenth of his life. The fifty year old is looking at one fiftieth of his. The older you get, the more precious each year becomes, and the more important it is for you to embrace each moment.

Tolerance

Be tolerant of the faults in others, for the weariness of their battle has made them what they are.

Tolerance is a sign of mercy.

Traditions

We teach our families values through our traditions.

A tradition is a methodology that no longer serves its purpose, but it owns our allegiance.

Travel

See Vacation

What is your motivation for travel? Is it to try to bring fulfillment to your life that is otherwise missing? Is it to escape pressure? Is it adventure that drives you or boredom? If you don't know why you are going, the trip will seem incomplete.

In all my travel, I find places and people to be alike. They are just people trying to get by and trying to deal with their own pressures of life. I see that each of them has needs, dreams, and disappointments. Of all the places I have seen, I find that I am always glad to get back home.

A trip is for the eye; a pilgrimage is for the soul. Everyone would make at least one pilgrimage in his or her lifetime.

Treasures

The treasures of life are hidden from the simple, and their search is never complete. They don't realize that it lies within and not without.

Seeds of Life

Keep your treasures to yourself and don't declare it to another, for if you do, your time will be spent protecting it rather than enjoying it.

Treachery

Treachery is the worst vice of human nature. It is the greatest traitor that ever committed domestic treason. It is the product of a wicked heart and knows no loyalty. It is one of the ugliest words that I know.

Troubles

Troubles come when everything is out of balance.

Trouble and disaster come in waves. It comes in clusters. It seems that trouble and disaster is held back through prayer and intercession, but when the trouble breaks through, a lot of things happen at once. Go to prayer. Ride out the wave and the turbulence will soon end.

Before you start cursing your troubles, you need to realize that sometimes trouble is merely a catalyst to move you to out of complacency.

Trust

Of all of the possessions between you and your companion, trust is chief.

I can't find out what will happen to your life until I find out who you trust.

Anxiety is conquered by trust.

When prayer is not appropriate, trust is.

The one thing that God wants from us most is the one thing we won't give him, our trust.

Sometimes it is difficult to release what you feel and embrace what you believe. Trust makes the transition possible.

The opposite of trust is to be adversarial.

Truth

If you put a jewel in a swine's snout, the jewel is still a jewel, and the swine is still a swine. Even so, you can find truth in the most bizarre places if you look for it.

Truth is sometimes bitter on the tongue, but the end of it is honor and peace.

Those who don't know the time to speak the truth will live a life alone and not know why.

Unless truth is our aim, all debate becomes deceitful and loses its integrity.

Truth deserves the greatest expression we can give it.

Truth never needs revision. It is only our understanding of truth that we find to be inconsistent.

Truth is never ours until we experience and embrace it.

Truth wants to be discovered. It will deliberately leave a trail.

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All the forces of life and nature swing to the middle.

The truth will indeed set you free, but first it will make you miserable.

Tyranny

See Government

To take away a people's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is tyranny. This is the only reason for revolt against a government.

U

Unbelief

Understanding

Unfaithfulness

Unforgiveness

Uniqueness

Usefulness

Seeds of Life

Unbelief

See God

Unbelief is not “no belief”. You believe in something. It may be in failure, but you believe in something. The end of this road is a darkened and fearful place.

Understanding

A person of understanding who lives by the unwritten laws of social and personal manners moves with ease through all of the affairs of life.

In all of my search for wisdom and understanding of the ways of life and the pursuits of man, I find that life is short, pleasures empty, and desires uncertain. The only thing that makes sense and gives me hope is His purpose and faithfulness.

The greatest revelation of life is in the seed.

Unfaithfulness

To be unfaithful to your word will be a wound and dishonor that will soon be seen by all.

To embrace the companion of another is to take fire to your bosom. You will not escape its vicious wound, and the sweetness of your experience will become sour and bitter as wormwood. It is a dishonor that you will carry to your grave. There is no individual worth the price you must pay.

Signs become visible when disorder falls into a relationship. While I don't hold to the “Chicken Little” philosophy as a way of life, I do believe that if something hits you on the head, you should at least look up. There is a healthy side to paranoia. Have you ever heard the saying, “absence of evidence is not evidence of absence”? Learn to listen to and

trust your heart. Is it foolish to ignore the signs that suggest unfaithfulness. That may be the time to more carefully monitor your affairs.

Unforgiveness

To carry a grudge is a cancer to all of your flesh.

Uniqueness

Our oddities are what make us entertaining enough to tolerate each other.

Usefulness

One of the greatest gifts that we can give to someone is to let him or her know that they are needed. When their gifts are a contribution, their usefulness goes on. This is especially true in the area of the elderly. Usefulness keeps them going.

V

Vacation

Values

Vanity

Victim

Victory

Virtue

Vision

Vocabulary

Vulnerability

Vacation

See Travel

When you go on vacation, remember that the trip is just as important as the destination. Take your time and enjoy all of the vacation. Don't cheat yourself out of part of it by becoming rushed and impatient.

Most vacations mirror the lives of those who take them. The trip is always an annoyance and the destination is always in the future. They don't know what it means to "live" in the moment. Make the decision to smell the flowers, to see the beauty, and to touch the present.

Values

Values are caught more than taught.

Instilled values are the only way to preserve moral order.

Our community is based on the sanctity of each individual life.

About all a man has that he can really call his own are his values. When he loses that, what does he really have left?

The only things in this life that are truly important are people.

Is a man most noble by his birth or his deeds?

You can't be loyal when there are conflicting values.

Your highest values will become the motivation for your life and will propel your life in that direction.

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Vanity

On the fourth of July I was watching the fireworks show. I reasoned that each rocket varies in glory and is magnificent in its own right. While some make up the whole, others stand out for their individual brilliance, yet all eventually fade away and are replaced by another. Even so, all men whether small or great fade in glory and soon another will take their place. As bright as they shine, their glory darkens and they are forgotten. So keep in mind that the brilliance of your life is not forever. Don't be deceived into thinking that it is all about you. Give thanks for what God has given you, and be kind to people on your way up the ladder of life. Learn to live in the moment. Make the decision to smell the flowers, to see the beauty, and to touch the present.

A young lion roars as though his days were not numbered.

The dirt is hardly upon the coffin that life has gone on without hardly a wince or hesitation.

Victim

Being a victim can become a narcotic.

Victory

See Attitude

We don't fight to get victory. Victory is already ours. I fight to impose it. That is called faith.

The greater the battle, the sweeter the victory.

Our perception of victory is very one-dimensional, therefore we lose its sweet taste. Sometimes there can be victory even when you lose the tournament. Victory is a life-style and attitude rather than a one-time match.

Faith is our victory.

If it is their war only they can win it, for victory is a matter of the heart. Consider this before you involve yourself in someone else's affairs.

Virtue

Let mercy and truth be your badge.

Virtue is what exalts one being above another.

Of all virtues, the ability to be discreet is chief.

Vision

See Goals

If you cannot see, then your limitations are limitless.

Every life needs a vision statement. Without a vision, you do not have a track to run on. You are all dressed up and no place to go.

Don't consider the size of the seed when dreaming of your passion. Don't underestimate its ability. Look at the harvest. Although the seed is very small and may not look like much, it will produce a harvest.

Your entire vision statement should be summed up in one small paragraph. It must be small enough that you can communicate it in just a moment and your followers can catch it with ease.

If your vision statement is difficult to communicate, then you have not taken time to think it through. How can anybody follow you when you don't fully understand where you are going? If it is clear to you, then you

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will easily make it clear to all that follow. If it cannot be communicated, then it is not a vision.

Your vision will tell you where you are going. Your goals will tell how you are going to get there. Any goal that doesn't contribute to the vision should be eliminated.

Your purpose is actually written on your heart. Once you have your purpose, your vision has a distinct scent to it. To keep from being sidetracked you have to remember the scent. Each morning when you wake up, you must catch the scent. Few pursuits that we have are crystal clear. Catching the scent is the closest thing we have to a road map. The scent is not the mechanics of numbers and goals. It is something that you literally feel. It is a gut feeling. It compels you. This is the purpose of prayer and meditation. It clears your head and focuses your thoughts. When you catch the scent, your adrenaline goes up. Your energy increases. Your passion becomes tangible.

Visionaries have a lot in common, regardless of when they were born.

You can't run a flood through a straw.

The only difference in mankind today is what we can and cannot see.

Don't dream only of today.

Learn to live above the need of the moment. See the big picture.

Vocabulary

Do cross word puzzles, even if it is a simple puzzle. It's not that it teaches you new words, it makes you search for words that you know but rarely use. It broadens your vocabulary and usage of the language.

Vulnerability

Vulnerability may be our most valuable quality.

W

War

Waste

Wealth

Welfare

Widowhood

Wives

Willingness

Wisdom

Women

Words

Work

Worries

Worship

Writing

War

See Patriotism, The Military

Look closely at the heart of every war and you will find greed.

If we don't see the faces of those whom we have killed in war, how then can our conscience lead us? This is the problem I see with our modern day weapons. These long-range weapons cannot distinguish between the guilty and innocent, between those who deserve to die and those who do not. The resolve and conscience of the conflict is then lost.

The only way to deal with terrorism is to crush it without mercy. No matter the cost, we must never, ever stop our pursuit and punishment of these criminals.

Probably the first and greatest responsibility of the leader of a nation is to prepare for war. We must always be able to fight on more than one front at a time. Civilization is only able to thrive in peaceful and safe environments. Lawless nations are a constant threat to our economy, safety, and security. They only submit to strength.

One of the greatest human rights violations in the history of the United States was the incarceration of all of the American Japanese during the 2nd world war. These poor people were torn from their homes and sent to prison camps simply because of fear and over-reaction to the war. You would think we were smarter than that.

My mind cannot comprehend nor my heart grasp the horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki when the atomic bomb was dropped. Tens of thousands of innocent lives were lost in a moment of time. The schools were full of children and the streets crowded with innocent people. The pain and agony that it left behind cannot be healed. Although this happened before I was born, it haunts me. I understand casualties of war. I am aware of the brutality that was being carried out on the

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innocent during that time, but I cannot embrace this weapon. It is not a weapon of war. It is a weapon of blind destruction. It knows no boundaries and has no respect for any life. It is cold and heartless. It does not allow people to die like human beings. All of the arguments of justification pale in the face of the innocent. Now that being said, we must also face the fact that in times of great conflict, you confront enemies who for one reason or another cannot or will not be stopped, and you must break their back.

Waste

I am appalled at the absolute carelessness of our government and the waste included in their budget.

Understand the difference between being generous and wasteful. He that doesn't guard each coin will soon come to poverty.

You should occasionally look at your trash, for in that bag lies the secret to most of your vices and problems.

Wealth

See Money, Stewardship

True wealth is a condition of the heart and not the hand.

A man of wealth has nothing to prove, therefore his wealth is secure. He will blend with common people.

There is what is called a wage earners mentality. It limits you to what you can accomplish yourself in 24 hours. The wise individual uses the wage earner to build their wealth. They learn to leverage their resources. You make your time more productive by buying the wage earners time.

True wealth cannot be purchased with silver or gold.

Money is a great servant but a lousy master. He that serves it shall never be at rest.

Beware of the man who flaunts his substance. His wealth is a false wall.

If you share another person's wealth, carry your weight.

Give me durable riches. Proverbs 8:19

Maximize your time into wealth. The only difference in people concerning wealth is the ability to convert their time into wealth.

The value of money is determined by how many hours of your life it will cost.

Lay aside your trust in riches and take up your whole trust in God.

The wealth of a nation is not just money. It is the skills, products, land, labor, and goods.

We must attempt to raise the standard of living for our own people and at the same time contribute to the well being of other countries.

Gaining wealth is not a problem. Find a vehicle that produces and keep doing the same thing over and over.

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Welfare

See Giving

I don't care for the name "welfare." It sounds too permanent. They used to call it relief. That changes the mindset of those who receive from it. It should be viewed as assistance, not a way of life.

Widowhood

Widowhood can become a prevailing attitude that will keep you from facing tomorrow on the strengths that God gave you. There is life beyond the death of your mate.

Wives

See Husband and Wives, Sexuality, Relationships, Family

The smart wife protects her husband. She is not jealous, but neither is she naive. With a watchful eye, she makes him feel safe.

Willingness

Timing is everything when it comes to catching the new waves of technology and trend. The willing and open heart is the on-ramp that enables you to lay hold of the new trends of the hour. Without it, you will become cynical and miss the window of opportunity.

Wisdom

Yield to the reproof of wisdom and it will increase. Reject it and it will not be there when you call.

Wisdom is the taste bud of knowledge, for it discerns the matter.

The genius of wisdom is a product of the spirit and not the mind.

The world was created through wisdom and understanding, so wisdom is integrated into everything that we would call success. When your actions go contrary to that model; things get out of line with your life.

Through wisdom and understanding all of the regions of life are explored and maximized. Wisdom provides the capacity to realize what is of value in life for one's self and others. The searching out of wisdom is a priority to our family. The motto of the Edmon family is, "Wisdom and Understanding Conquers All".

Wisdom is the ability to display truth in bite-sized portions.

Obedience and wisdom go hand in hand.

By wisdom and an understanding heart, the matter is discerned and the heart enlightened.

Wisdom is better than strength, and a right answer is better than a strong arm.

Solomon was able to hold wisdom and understanding because God enlarged his heart

Women

There is a leadership quality in women that remains untapped to this day.

You can usually tell where a society is by looking at its women.

Of all of God's creations, there is nothing so beautiful as a woman who fears the Lord.

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There is a God given gift of insight given to every woman, and no man is complete without it.

It seems that southern women can get away with anything.

Men need respect and women need security.

Women find security in routines.

Words

Words are containers. They carry life and death, as well as blessings or curses. They carry your faith from your heart to the mountain. They are seeds that bring forth the harvest of your future. Think it through before you speak.

Once words come out of your mouth, you are no longer in control of them. They can victimize you as easily as anyone else.

Music notes become songs. Words become books. What you say and do takes you someplace.

Choose your words carefully. You may have to eat them.

Work

It's a supreme accomplishment to blur the line between work and play. Decide to enjoy what you do. Things impact us the way we let them!

Worries

Worry casts a very large shadow.

To be disquieted by apprehension is to be whipped in battle before the first shot is fired.

It is a lot easier to worry than to take action.

Worship

See God

True worship is intimacy with the Lord. All else tends to become religious.

If you don't understand intimacy and romance, you will probably never understand worship.

Worship is the adoring acknowledgment of God. Worship goes to the core of who we are in relation to being creative in his image. Worship is communion and fellowship with God. It is to live in a state of thanksgiving and spiritual awareness. Worship is to live from the inside out.

The Tower of Babel was a place of worship. They weren't attempting to reach the stellar heavens. Through their unity and oneness of heart in worship, they could open a gate into the spirit realm. God said that there was nothing that would be impossible to them. This was why he shattered their languages. The moment they were able to have this kind of power was the moment of the new birth on the day of Pentecost. Their language was replaced, and gate to heaven was opened.

Writing

See Books, Reading

Writing should be a passionate act of the heart.

Seeds of Life

Writing works like the turning on of a facet. After you turn it on, the water comes out. Just sit down and start writing. It will open a channel to the deep resources of your heart.

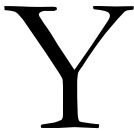
When you get a thought, write it down as soon as possible. Otherwise, you will forget or at least lose the crispness of your point. Inspiration is hard to duplicate. The faintest ink is better than the strongest memory.

Letter writing is good for you and the person to whom you are writing. It gives you a chance to organize what you need to say, and it gives the person to whom you are sending the letter to a time to read your words more than once.

The goal of my writing is not just to have a book of abstract thought, but rather to place ethics and politics on a proper foundation.

God is a writer. While looking at this life I realized the God is in the process of writing a story; a living story. God, in eternity, lives in absolutes. He brought about a story line that was not. Most of us could never see God as having needs, yet our personality and needs were created after His nature and personality. In His personality, we see curiosity, affection, imagination, challenge, jealousy and love. The idea that He would create a living story is the most logical thought I know. The story setting was in a darkened place where His authorship was obscured. A story line that carried the seeds of life and produced life as it developed; a story line that was birthed from Him and came into relationship with Him. He had characters that He loved and was jealous of; characters that expressed His personality. At the end of the book, when the final chapter is closed, He gathers the characters of His creative love and draws them to Himself for eternity, and says, "There are yet many adventures for us to experience". In this book that He is writing, we find all of the components of a good story. What is a story? A story is about the struggle of someone. If there is no struggle, there is no story. Think of all of the stories you know or television shows you have watched. Every one of them has a problem that involves a struggle

to solve. A good story shows something that the characters struggle to get. Without a struggle, there simply is no story. Stories require a solution. If the solution is too easy then the story is boring. If the story is to be interesting, then the main character must struggle against real difficulties, even to the point of great loss and sacrifice. The problem must be genuinely significant to the main character or the story won't seem important to the reader. The main character is God and His struggle to draw His creation back to Himself. In this story we have several components, but all of them are inter linked and take us back to the central theme. Something lost from man and God, struggle, an adversary who was at one time close to, and at one time was a powerful player in God's plan. In this story we find struggle within each character to overcome inside and outside influences. A savior and solution, blindness to the solution. Motives within each character, history and environment. He deliberately built contradictions in each character. The solution to the story problem is the point of the story. He already knows the ending, and is working everything toward that. Although God is the author and finisher of the story line, we have a part in writing it through our actions and decisions. In this sense, it takes part of it out of the author's hands and comes alive to itself. How brilliant He has been in the orchestration of this play. Each of us with a flare of individually; free yet harnessed within the story line. Every character has the make-up to emerge as a key role in the story. Some players were earmarked as when He chose David. The Lord said, "I'll choose whom I will choose and I will harden whom I will harden". The story is alive.



Yielding
Youth

Yielding

Yielding calms the rage of another man's anger. It softens the hardness of his heart. It is an important tool in the time of negotiation.

Youth

Youth is a condition of the mind. That mind-set is greatly affected by your companions. If you want to stay looking young and acting young, then make companions of people who have that mind set.

The one thing about my youth that I regret is that I did not have more mentors to speak into my life. It would have prevented me from experiencing so much pain and lost time later.

Z

Zeal

Zeal

Zeal without order is strange fire and, as it did with the sons of Aaron, it will consume you. This is the reason that many people experience burn out in their profession or job. They are either trying to do what they are not called to do, or they are trying to do it without the proper line of authority.

As the bit is in the horse's mouth, so must zeal be harnessed.

About Jerry Edmon

Jerry Edmon has committed himself to address the pressures and problems faced in everyday life, and gives insight and direction on how to attack and leap the hurdles that slow us down. He challenges his audience to act upon their beliefs, making them work for and not against them. He helps us utilize our gifts and reshape our beliefs, to stand up like the champions that we were intended to be. He strongly believes that it is our decisions, not our surroundings that shape our destiny. His passion is to see and unlock treasure in people thereby empowering them to reach their highest potential in the context of love and purpose.

Spiritually

He is called to help facilitate and provide an experience in the presence of the Lord and in that exchange there is new found freedom and hope. In 1971, Jerry Edmon had an encounter with Jesus Christ that radically changed his life. He has seen the power of Jesus Christ and what he can do in an individual who will call upon His name.

Socially

He creates a flow that brings people together in relationship with vision and opportunity. He produces optimism that causes people to continue to reach for their dreams.

Personally

The highest priority of his time and leadership is focused within his own home and to his own family. The motto of the Edmon family is “Wisdom and Understanding Conquers All”. His ambition is to walk and live with the grace and refinement of a gentleman.

He gives pastoral oversight to the Family Worship Center in Elgin, Texas, as well as other relational churches. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Independent Assemblies Fellowship of churches as well as the Deliverance Temple International Fellowship of ministers. He is also on the Advisory Board for Clarion World Missions

Organization. He is recognized as an ambassador and strategist in relation to Life and the Kingdom of God.

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