

In focusing on the biblical perspective of life, the first and foremost important element to consider is salvation through Christ, the only way to God's Kingdom.

Jesus said in Mat 7:13, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it." In John 3:16 Jesus told Nicodemus, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

In essence, Christ Himself said that to be saved, we must through faith believe in Him as Savior for having died for our sins. Additionally, believing in Christ entails that we must repent, and surrender our life to follow Him and make Him Lord over our life.

This is why Acts 4:12 says, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Jesus finally made it clear in Mat 10:38-39, "He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

Unless we have the prerequisite of salvation, we obviously can't have a biblical perspective of life. Where do we stand right now?

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## BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF LIFE ... CORE PRINCIPLES

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Col 3:1-2

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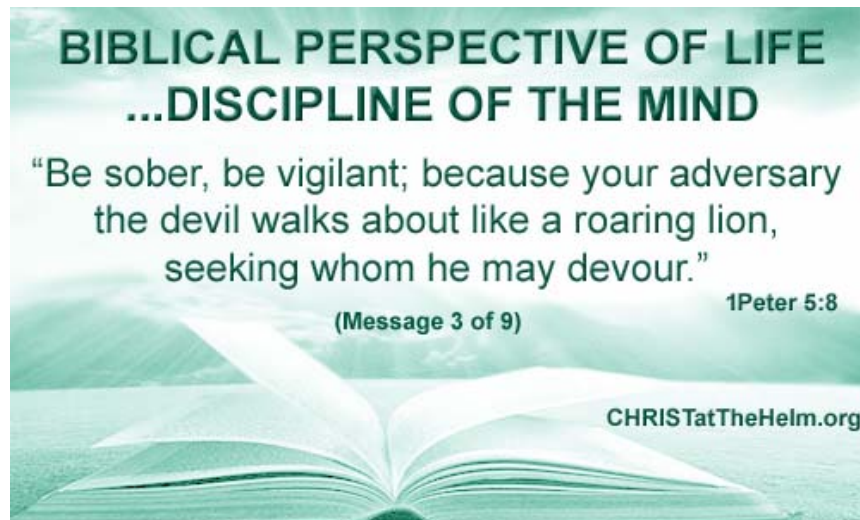
Having received salvation through Christ by faith, our perspective on life must obviously change to reflect God's will for us. That's why our source of beliefs no longer rests with the world but is found in the Word of God.

Jesus said in John 8:12, “I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” In Mat 6:19-21 He added, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

In other words, where we direct our minds will determine whether or not our hearts are with God or with the world. That's why 1John 2:15 states, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

What then is the core principle for a biblical perspective on life? Rom 12:2, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. How's that working for us right now?

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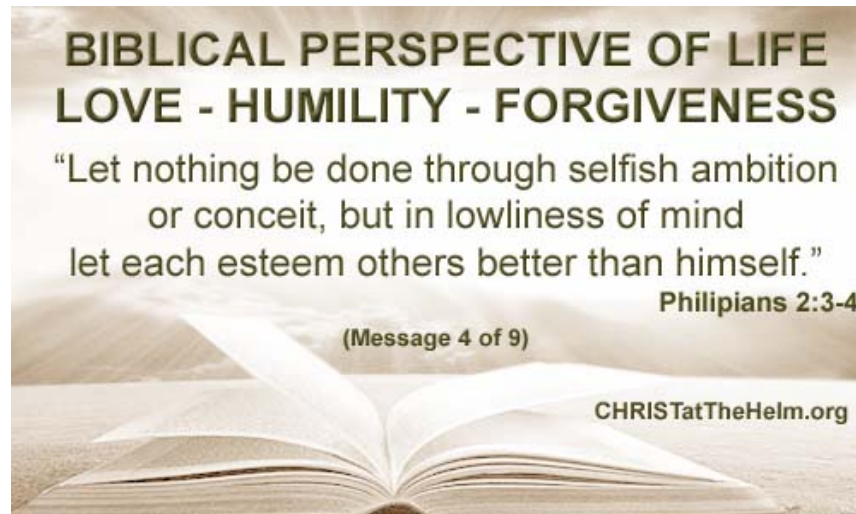
Keeping a biblical perspective on life requires discipline, as Paul in Eph 4:23-24 said, "Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." In essence, we must feed our spirit with the Word of God, so we can keep our minds from straying into sin.

2Cor 10:4-5 says, "For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." That requires discipline, courage to control our thoughts and the commitment to follow Christ through His Word, because we are surrounded by a world that is lost, that seeks the pleasures of the flesh, and deny God.

Eph 5:15-17 adds: "So then, be careful how you walk, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*." How is this achieved? "Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established." (Pro 16:3)

Who reigns in our hearts, God or the world?

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The most obvious attribute of God is His love for humanity. He could have completely destroyed the human race following the disobedience of Adam and Eve, yet chose to redeem us through Christ.

Jesus made this clear as crystal that we must love God saying, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This *is* the first commandment. And the second, like *it*, *is* this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:30-31)

As believers, we demonstrate our love for God through living by His Word and loving our neighbor by being humble and forgiving. Jesus added in Mat 6:15, "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Paul showed us the heart attitude to adopt in Eph 4:14-15, "We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ."

Therefore, a believer's biblical perspective of love must be to love God through obedience to His Word, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Are we?

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# BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF LIFE TRUTH - INTEGRITY

“Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD,  
but those who deal truthfully are His delight.”

Proverbs 12:22

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Lying is pure and simply to be afraid of the truth. Therefore, liars are cowards trying to hide themselves from the consequences of their thoughts, actions and intents.

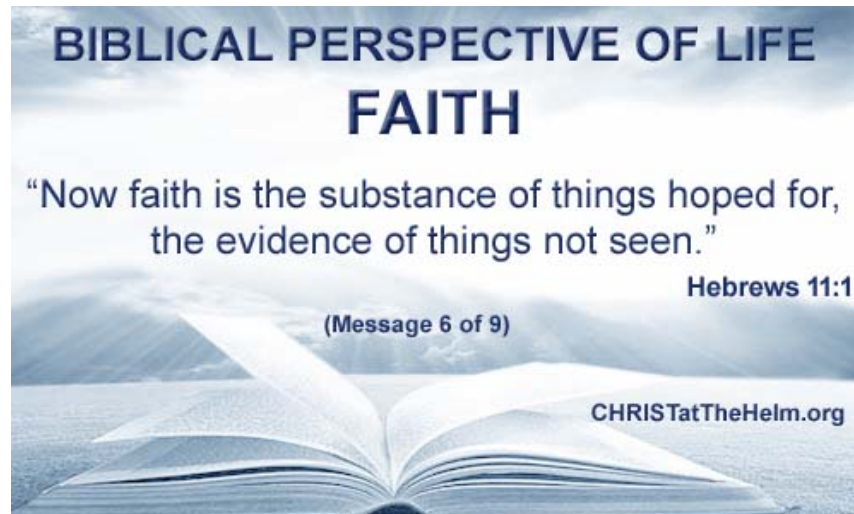
Jesus in Mat 5:37 said this: “Let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ Anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” In other words, lying is to surrender to the devil’s temptation from fear of being exposed to the truth. Additionally, if we claim to be Christ’s, shouldn’t we do as Paul said in Col 3:9, “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds?”

To tell the truth in all circumstances is to honor God and shine the light of Christ, our Savior. That’s why 1John 2:4 says, “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” Obviously, being truthful is what the Lord taught us and expects from us.

Let’s heed Paul’s words in Eph 4:23-25, “Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*” for we are members of one another.”

Will we choose truth and honor God, or be prisoners of the father of lies?

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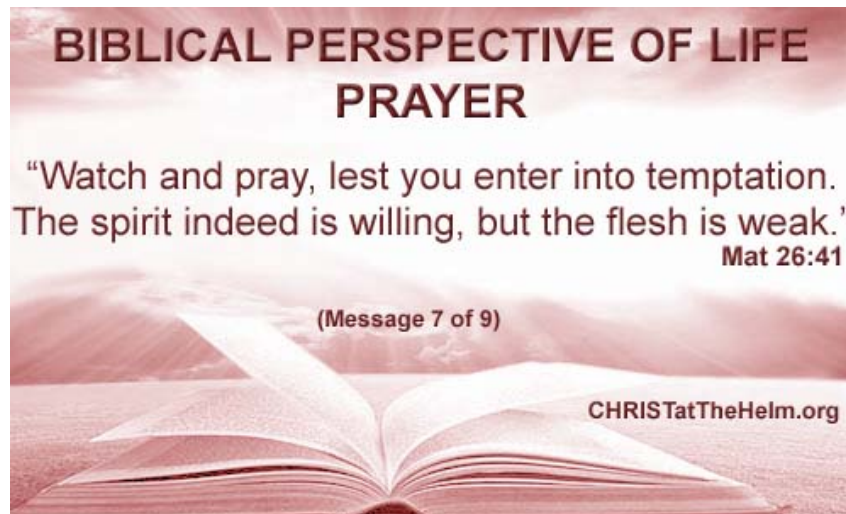
In simple terms, faith is to believe God at His Word, to believe He loves us, as well as to trust Him through whatever trials, challenges, and difficulties we might face. The reason 2Cor 5:7 says, "We walk by faith, not by sight." Walking by faith is demonstrated through living according to His Word, thus the need to get its knowledge, as Rom 10:17 says, "Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Paul reminded his friend in 1Tim 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." In essence, if we surrendered our life to follow Christ, shouldn't we follow through and walk by faith as Christ taught us?

While fear is sown by the enemy of our faith, Jesus said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." In Is 26:3, we read: "You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.* Why? "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2Tim 1:7)

Let's adopt God's Word as the source of life for pure faith.

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Just as we need both fuel and a battery to energize cars, prayer is the spark that energizes the Word of God in our hearts. As Jesus said, prayer is needed so we can combat the enemy's temptations and become energized to stand by God's Word and will for our life. Jesus also showed us how to pray; "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words." Mat 6:6-7.

The prophet Isaiah gave us an insight on what prayer does: "But those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31.

In other words, prayer is opening our hearts to God, and we pray God through Christ and Christ only, as Paul said in 1Tim 2:5, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." How often shall we pray? Pray without ceasing," as Paul said in 1Thess 5:17.

How faithful and dedicated are we to invest time with our God in prayer?

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## BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF LIFE SUCCESS - MONEY

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

(Message 8 of 9)

Mat 6:24

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Money is perhaps one of the biggest attractions in this world. While it is necessary to provide for our needs, it can become an addiction and a fixation to desire and possess more and more, then deceives us into feeling important and powerful, and proudly flaunting its material benefits to the world.

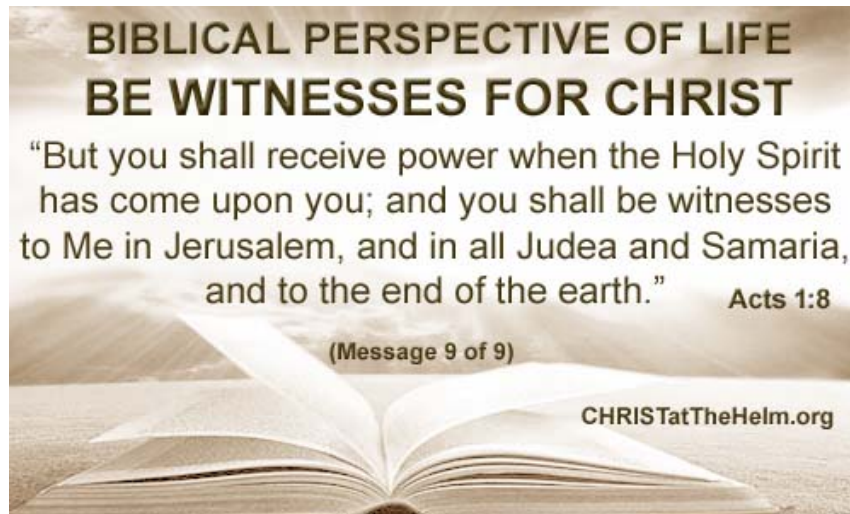
The danger is that the attraction of money may become our god, and result in sinful attitudes in its draw to fulfill the desires of the flesh. Paul in 1Tim 6:17 said, “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.” He added in 1Tim 6:10, “For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

Jesus in Mat 16:26 said, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? He also added, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:34)

Obviously, our trust should never be in money as after all is said and done, we won't take one penny with us into eternity. Where's our treasure right now?

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An often misunderstood responsibility for believers is to think that the task for evangelization belongs to pastors and evangelists exclusively. In all truth and as directed by the Word of God, we are all called to share the message of the gospel, and we should wholeheartedly desire that everyone should be given the same opportunity we received to know the truth and be set free.

It starts with how we live, as Jesus said in Mat 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Our lives should definitely shine the spirit of Christ in all aspects of life, and that’s a 24 hour a day mission for all believers.

Some might say, “I’m a shy and reserved person and don’t really know what to say!” To this effect Jesus said: “Do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” Luke 12:11-12. Our heart disposition can sometimes display a more powerful testimony than anything we can say, as Pro 27:19 says, “As in water face *reflects* face, so a man’s heart *reveals* the man.”

When’s the last time we actually shared the gospel message with anyone?

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