

5 daily decisions that will change the course of life

Limit ungodly Influences & Stay in the Scriptures

<u>Psalm 1:1–6</u> (CSB) ¹ How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! ² <u>Instead</u>, **his delight is in the Lord's instruction**, and he meditates on it day and night. ³ He [the one who seeks God] is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. ⁴ The wicked are not like this; instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand up in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.

This is a picture of a person who is no longer putting themselves in the position to be influenced by CULTURE - including ungodly friends. He's not a hermit, but instead chooses **not walk in the advice** of these influences any longer.

<u>LIMIT UNGODLY INFLUENCES</u> and instead fill that gap with **Yahweh's instruction**, <u>from the Scriptures</u>. This person reads, listens to, and marinates in who God is and what God says, all day long!

STAY IN THE SCRIPTURES Read, memorize, marinate, and obey them! Take the 10 minute challenge! **Distractions** & **sin** keep us from this.

"THIS BOOK WILL KEEP ME FROM SIN, AND SIN WILL KEEP ME FROM THIS BOOK."

The contrast between those who seek God & those who allow ungodly influences to seep into their souls is found in verses 3-6. The Godly person *thrives*, with roots that reach deep, bearing *fruit* and never drying up (leaf does not wither), but the wicked will be judged guilty.

Pray throughout the Day.

Matthew 7:7-11 (CSB) ⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ Who among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him.

Your heavenly Father WANTS to hear from you! Do you spend any time talking to God, seeking Him in prayer?

Walk with the Wise.

<u>Proverbs 13:20</u> (CSB) ²⁰ The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm.

Make time to hang out with people you want to be like! This is why it's VITAL that you are consistently involved in a church with friends and leaders who encourage you to love Jesus and love people, by serving others speaking the truth in love. "You show me your friends, and I'll show you your future."

Andy Stanley "Your friends will determine the quality and direction of your life."

<u>Luke 10:1</u> (CSB) ¹ After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and **he sent them ahead of him in pairs** to every town and place where he himself was about to go.

Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs. *WHY?* They could have covered 2x more ground if they split up. Of course, it's because we NEED each other. You need others to pick you up when you fall and cheer you on as you obey the Lord Jesus. So, in *Acts 4, Peter & John do ministry TOGETHER*...and *get in trouble TOGETHER*.

Become a Disciple who Develops Disciples.

<u>Matthew 28:19–20</u> (CSB) ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ **teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you**. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Paul had the guts to tell the Corinthians...

1 Corinthians 11:1 (CSB) Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.

Most people in our culture would think that is a prideful statement. NOPE. Paul wanted to continue developing disciples in obedience to Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:2 (CSB) What **you** have heard from **me** in the presence of many witnesses, commit to **faithful men** who will be able to **teach others** also.

THIS IS 4 GENERATIONS DEEP! Paul to Timothy to faithful men to teach others...and discipleship keeps going! It's amazing how WE grow when we are trying to help others grow!

Most people experience a little bit of fear as you don't want to steer that young believer wrong. But how many of us would be afraid because 1) we aren't very committed disciples ourselves, OR 2) no one has taken the time to invest in OUR lives and show us HOW?

This is why it is VITAL that you seek out some WISE EXAMPLES who will invest in your life and show you how to BECOME a disciple who DEVELOPS DISCIPLES.

- Young Believers: Approach that mature (same sex) believer you look up to, and ask him/her to make some time for you.
- Maturing Believers: Approach and ask 2 young (same sex) believers about interest in meeting with you on a regular basis and then make a plan on when to meet and what to cover.

Are these 5 daily decisions part of your life?

- 1) Limit ungodly influences
- 2) Stay in the Scriptures
- 3) Pray throughout the Day
- 4) Walk with the Wise
- 5) Become a Disciple who Develops Disciples. WILL YOU?

YOUR NOTES			

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Take time to consider the **5 daily decisions** that can change the course of our lives: 1) Limit ungodly influences 2) Stay in the Scriptures 3) Pray throughout the Day 4) Walk with the WISE 5) Become a Disciple who Develops Disciples. *Which of those challenges YOU the most? Explain your answer.*
- 2. Share some practical ways you are attempting to live these 5 daily decisions out.
- 3. Imagine a friend has just put his/trust in Jesus and asked YOU to help him/her grow. Would that excite you or scare you? Explain your answer.
- 4. Why is it important to be discipled/mentored by another person before you try to do the same? Are you/how are you currently being discipled by another?
- 5. Have you ever shared with a friend about how and why they should turn from sin and trust in Jesus? If not, why not? (scared, unprepared, don't care?) If so, what was that like & what did you learn?
- 6. Pray for one another this week. Consider texting or calling same sex believers to pray & share together this week.