

FINDING YOUR GOD INTENDED PURPOSE IN LIFE

“DECISION, MAINTENANCE, RENEWALS AND PROGRESS”

In our last lecture we looked at making a decision to stop living for self and start living for God. We come to the cross road of the cross, receive forgiveness for our past living for self and begin walking along the pathway of living for God. It is one thing to make that decision and another thing to maintain it. Maintenance is an important aspect of everything in life whether material, physical or spiritual.

For example, imagine you inherit a beautiful home, well kept, tidy lawns and shrubs and flower beds and you move in and begin to live there, but everything is not going to remain neat, beautiful and tidy unless you maintain it. If you neglect to look after it, it will lose its beauty and become overgrown. Even Adam in the beautiful, perfect garden of Eden was given the job of maintaining it. We read in Genesis 2:15, “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

God gives us a beautiful Christian life but we are to maintain it, look after it. So how do we maintain it? By daily reading, meditating on, and obeying the Word of God, the Bible. When something becomes clear to us that God wants us to do or something he wants us to avoid, then do it! If it is something he wants us to believe, then believe it! If it is something he wants us to say, then, say it! The bible becomes an exciting life changing book when we daily, read it! Think on it! and obey it when things become clear to us as to what he wants us to do. As Jesus said, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4.

We also maintain it by continual prayer, talking to God about everything. Human relationships can fail by not communicating with one another, so it is with us and God. If you stop communicating, neglect prayer, you are not maintaining your walk with God. We read in Philippians 4:6. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.”

We also need to experience frequent renewals because as we walk the pathway of the God pleasing life we can often slip up, give into a temptation to please self and fail God. It is like falling over on the Christian pathway. We feel bad because we failed but Jesus is there not to condemn us but rather to encourage us to get up, be forgiven and cleansed and keep going forward again. 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” In renewal we reconfirm our decision to leave the pathway of living for self and continue the pathway of living to please God.

If we keep going forward we will make progress in our Christian lives. In other words, grow spiritually. If you visited a home where there was a new born baby you would rejoice with the family. But if you visited them again two years later and found that the baby was exactly the same had not grown one little bit you would not be rejoicing you would know something was wrong and if it was the same in ten years time, twenty years time you would regard it as a tragedy. If we don't keep going forward with God we will be like that baby.

2 Peter 3:18 says, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." A child doesn't try to grow it grows unconsciously as it eats drinks, exercises, sleeps, and in the same way we will grow, make progress, as we keep going forward maintaining our decision to walk the path of pleasing God.

THOSE OF YOU, WHO ARE RECEIVING THESE LECTURES ON LINE, DON'T FORGET TO SCROLL DOWN AFTER EACH LECTURE TO GET THE PICTURE THAT RELATES TO IT.

WHICH ONE IS YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE LIKE ?

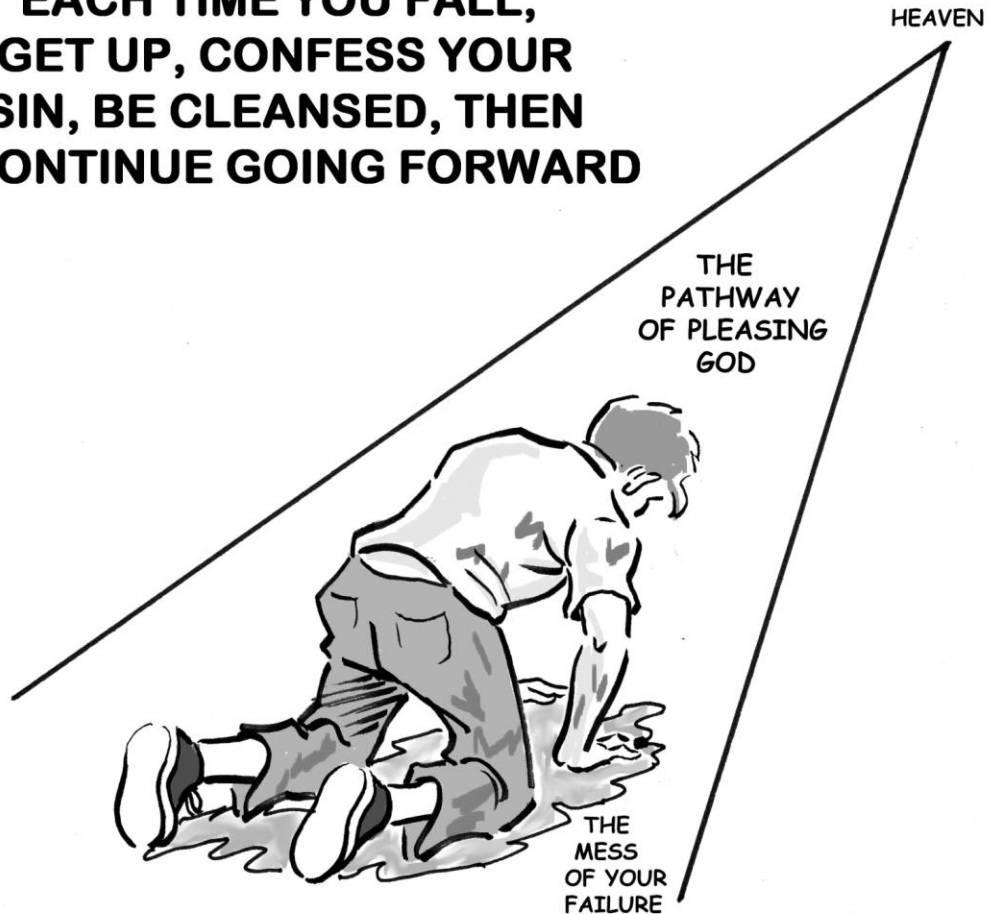


MAINTAINED



NEGLECTED

**EACH TIME YOU FALL,
GET UP, CONFESS YOUR
SIN, BE CLEANSED, THEN
CONTINUE GOING FORWARD**



GO FORWARD AND GROW IN SPIRITUAL MATURITY

FRANK HUTCHINSON