

RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES IN OUR LIVES.

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1. HOW GOOD OR HOW BAD YOUR LIFE IS HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH HOW YOU PERCEIVE AND REACT TO THE CHALLENGES IN YOUR LIFE!

Perceive: ...interpret or look on (someone or something) in a particular way; discern, recognize, become aware of, see, realize, grasp, understand, identify, comprehend, ...

React: ...respond or behave in a particular way in response to something.

Matthew 13:9-AMP

9. He who has ears [to hear], let him be listening and let him consider and perceive and comprehend by hearing.

1Samuel 17:32-33,36-37,45-47-AMP

32 David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of this Philistine; your servant will go out and fight with him.

33 And Saul said to David, You are not able to go to fight against this Philistine. You are only an adolescent, and he has been a warrior from his youth.

36 Your servant killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God!

37 David said, The Lord Who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and the Lord be with you!

45 Then said David to the Philistine, you come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin,

but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the ranks of Israel, whom you have defied.

46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will smite you and cut off your head.

And I will give the corpses of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

47 And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands.

Paul was able to discern when there was danger, and what needed to be done to avoid it.

Acts 27:10, 21-25-AMP.

10. Saying, Sirs, I perceive [after careful observation] that this voyage will be attended with disaster and much heavy loss, not only of the cargo and the ship but of our lives also.

21 ...Paul came forward into their midst and said, Men, you should have listened to me and should not have put to sea from Crete and brought on this disaster and harm and misery and loss.

22 But [even] now I beg you to be in good spirits and take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you but only of the ship.

23 For this [very] night there stood by my side an angel of the God to Whom I belong and Whom I serve and worship,

24 And he said, Do not be frightened, Paul! It is necessary for you to stand before Caesar; and behold, God has given you all those who are sailing with you.

25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith (complete confidence) in God that it will be exactly as it was told me...

2Corinthians 4:17-18-AMP

17... For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!],

18 Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting.

2. A GODLY PERSPECTIVE ONLY COMES BY SPENDING TIME WITH GOD AND HIS WORD.

1John-2:3-AMP.

And this is how we may discern [daily, by experience] that we are coming to know Him [to perceive, recognize, understand, and become better acquainted with Him]: if we keep (bear in mind, observe, practice) His teachings (precepts, commandments).

Proverbs 3:5-7-Passion

5 Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make.

6 Become intimate with him in whatever you do, and he will lead you wherever you go.

7 Don't think for a moment that you know it all, for wisdom comes when you adore him with undivided devotion and avoid everything that's wrong.

Matthew 11:28-30-Passion

28 "Are you weary, carrying a heavy burden? Then come to me. I will refresh your life, for I am your oasis.

29 Simply join your life with mine. Learn my ways and you'll discover that I'm gentle, humble, easy to please. You will find refreshment and rest in me.

30 For all that I require of you will be pleasant and easy to bear."

3. WE NEED TO MAKE THE COMMITMENT TO SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH HIM ON A CONSISTENT BASIS.

2Corinthians 13:4-AMP

4 For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He goes on living by the power of God. And though we too are weak in Him [as He was humanly weak], yet in dealing with you [we shall show ourselves] alive and strong in [fellowship with] Him by the power of God.

Psalm 91:1-5-Passion

1 When you sit enthroned under the shadow of Shaddai, you are hidden in the strength of God Most High.

2 He's the hope that holds me and the Stronghold to shelter me, the only God for me, and my great confidence.

3 He will rescue you from every hidden trap of the enemy, and he will protect you from false accusation and any deadly curse.

4 His massive arms are wrapped around you, protecting you. You can run under his covering of majesty and hide. His arms of faithfulness are a shield keeping you from harm.

5 You will never worry about an attack of demonic forces at night nor have to fear a spirit of darkness coming against you.

John 10:10-NLT

... The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.