

Introduction:

Much of the time preachers are guilty of telling you what the bible says you should, or should not do, without providing any tools to help you accomplish that. The tools on how to do something, a lot of times, comes from experience with allowing God to show us what needs to change in order to accomplish it.

If we need to change something in our lives that is frustrating us 95% of the time the change is going to happen with our thinking. We have to think differently than the way we have been thinking. Without that change, you will have to fight with ourselves to not handle things in a wrong manner.

Thinking creates feelings, and feelings usually leads to actions.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

In other words, until you think like God wants you to think, you cannot even know what God's will is.

This short series teaches us about the typical things we must do better while living for God. It is kind of an overall summary of the bible's teachings.

I started Part 1 of this short series 2 1/2 months ago on March 30. Then I got tied up with Easter sermons, Mothers Day sermon, the D.S. coming, my vacation, etc.

Today, I want to do a review of Part 1, and take this message further as we look at Part 2 of **"Bible Summary About Living Right for God."**

Text: numerous

Republic, June 8, 2025

Title: "Bible Summary About Living Right for God" Pt 2

Review of Part 1:

1. How do I know if I am seeing clearly what (or how) God wants me to be in life?

We looked at things like:

What does God want to do with me? Are my goals in life the same as God's goals for me?

Am I too lenient on myself because I see God as all loving and forgiving, and not expecting much because I'm just human?

Or, am I too hard on myself, because I see God as harsh, and He is expecting things I could never do?

Do I see God as "all grace and mercy, or do I see God as the opposite of that?"

OR, do I view God somewhere in the middle - showing grace & mercy to me, but also expecting me to care about whatever He cares about?

With that, we also looked at:

- *Do I see myself as having assignments from God while I am on earth?*
- *Do I see that God has certain people He will bring my way whom I am to bond with and to help, as well as to influence for God the same way that Jesus prayed about in the Garden of Gethsemane? ([John 17:6-9](#))*
- *Does God expect me to include Him in all my decisions?*
- *Am I all that God wants me to be, or am I refusing to look at some things about myself?*

As well as many other things.

2. How do I know if I am "spiritually off" right now?

Jeremiah lets us know that we can get deceived. Pride is one way it can happen to us. [Jeremiah 49:16](#) (NIV) says "...the pride of your heart has deceived you..."

The moment we move away from humility into any prideful thinking, it is easier for us to be deceived.

I pointed out that When we are spiritually off:

- 1.) My attitudes will change. I am bothered more than usual about people, or things.**
- 2.) When we are off spiritually, our pride will usually increase. (get worse)**
- 3.) At that point in our life, we will not be thinking enough about trying to find God's will in various areas, or various problems of our life. Our focus is more on ourselves.**

3. How do I know if I'm "in denial" in certain areas of my life?

[Romans 12:3](#) (NIV) ... Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment ...

Amplified bible adds these words "[not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance]"

Here are 3 examples of how easy it is to allow ourselves to be in denial:

- 1) If our thinking is mainly about our own good points, and we ignore any areas of our life that needs to change.**
- 2) If We are not open enough, or even honest enough, with ourselves and with God to allow Him to show us where we still need to change. Do you know right now what areas God has been wanting you to change on? Or, are you in such denial you refuse to see it - You only think about what you are good at?**

David prayed many times for God to search him to be sure he was thinking and living right.

- 3) We can fall into denial so much easier if we are not reading the bible enough. This limits God on His opportunities to speak to us about what He wants to show us.**

In Part 1, we also looked at:

4. How would I know if I am over my anger toward someone?

Relationships with others is the 2nd most important commandment. In fact 6 out of the 10 commandments deal about relationships with other people. *When I get angry at someone, do I know when I have successfully gotten over that?*

- 1) It's been more than one day and I'm no longer angry, or at least most of it is gone.**

[Ephesians 4:26-27](#) (NIV) ---> The bible tells us to get over it by the time the sun goes down, and not to give the devil a chance to use us when we do not do this.

If there is a little bit of anger left, I'm also constantly checking myself on how to get rid of the rest of the anger, while trying to learn how I can grow from what angered me. If you are not trying to grow from it, and you have not stopped blaming, you have not learned what you needed to learn, and you are probably not over your anger, as well.

Another way I can know that I am probably over my anger if:

- 2) I do not nit-pick them - finding fault with most things they do. Nit picking what they do is really a form of distorting most everything they do.** I guarantee you, if you are nit-picking most everything you see someone do, you will also be distorting what they do.

If I have not stopped doing that, I am not over my anger, and I am also living in sin.

There is a decent chance I might be over my anger if:

- 3) I do NOT try to avoid them. AND, I do not get negative feelings, or anxiety feelings when I see them.**

I am probably over my anger at someone:

- 4) If I am telling myself "We all have difficulties. I'm not perfect either."**

So, if you are NOT doing that, you are probably not over your anger. Reminding ourselves "we are not perfect either," helps to be more reasonable on how hard we are on other people.

- 5) If I am thinking about how I do not want to offend God by my own attitude this is a good indicator I may be over my anger. Not only do I not want to offend God, but I have a healthy fear of God using the same measure of judging I am using on someone else, and then using that measure on me. ([Matt 7:1-2](#))**

And, so I'm constantly checking my own attitude. I know God knows what I am thinking, and I don't want Him unhappy with me.

I may be over my anger if:

- 6) **I do not feel the need to keep complaining to someone else about the person I got angry at.**

We complain to others because we are still bothered about something. Keep in mind one thing here, if you keep up the complaining, you may find God even more unhappy with you because you are not changing, AND your continued sharing about it is now effecting someone else having a grudge.

I think of the story of Ananias and Saphira, the married couple that did wrong together, and it ended up costing both of them. Neither one was doing right, and God struck them both down. If you do not get over your own attitude issues, you may find you are helping Satan take down your spouse, or anyone else you constantly complain to.

I may be over my anger if I am telling myself:

- 7) **"God is merciful to me, I need to be merciful to others, too."**

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)

³¹ **Get rid of** all bitterness, rage & anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, **forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.** (*See the attitude we are to have here?"*)

- 8) **I need to realize that my wrong attitudes toward others may say a whole lot more about me than what I don't like about them.** By, telling myself this it can help us to deal with our anger.

I have seen people get angry at someone else, and then the angered person ends up handling it BY FAR worse than what they got mad about. *So, in essence, their wrong attitude said more about them than it did about the person they were angry at.* **When we live in judgement of others there will always be some hypocritical parts to our thinking or doing.**

I am probably over my anger at someone if:

- 9) **I'm able to think about all the good qualities of the person I was angry at, even though I may be currently disappointed with what I don't like. Along the same lines, I am also able to think about the good things they have done for me in the past.**

The pattern that is often seen when people are still angry, is they completely forget any good about the other person, or any good things the other person has ever done. It becomes "ALL or nothing" thinking. The angry person puts the person they are angry at into a category of all bad. In essence, "they negate them." Or we end up doing what liberals do: We "cancel them."

Are you the type of person who cancels people you are angry with? If so, how are you any better than what the liberals do to people?

Notice that Jesus' anger was only righteous anger. Study it for yourselves. I have done that study. He was NEVER angry over anything selfish. Jesus' anger happened:

- at least 1-2 times with His disciples because they were not growing quick enough.
- Then you see His anger with the Pharisees when Jesus kept seeing they were not "getting it," and were continuing to plan evil things. Jesus' anger with them kept increasing.
- Then, His anger was with what people were doing to God's temple - turning it into a place to make money.

So, you see that ALL of Jesus' anger was never selfish, never over His hurt feelings.

If you want to be like Jesus, be like Him in His anger, too. But, you won't be able to do that until you are looking at everything in life, 100% like God looks at it, AND, you are completely out of the way. Life is no longer about your hurts, or your judgements of other people, or what you think should, or should not, happen.

Even when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and Judas was leading them to find Jesus, you do not see Jesus being unselfish.

Here is what Matthew tells us:

Matthew 26:49-50 (NIV)

⁴⁹ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. *(a two-faced betrayal of Judas. This made Judas' betrayal even worse)*

⁵⁰ **Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."** Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

Do you see that? EVEN THEN, when Judas caused part of the reason Jesus was crucified, Jesus called Judas "Friend."

Are you the type of person who cancels people you are angry with? What that means is, Are you so angry you cannot even think any good about them, any good they have ever done, any good things they have done for you?

----- We stopped here on Pt 1 -----

I may be over my anger if

10) I'm double checking myself to make sure what I got angry about wasn't at least partially my own issues with something that I need to grow in. Or something I need to change my thinking about.

5. *What causes me to struggle with judging others more than many other people?*

There are some similarities with this question to some of the other things I have already talked about. I include it in today because it can provide extra insight to those who struggle with judging.

The following things CAN BE involved in "my difficulty in judging others":

1) I'm very opinionated, and I use that on what I think others should do, or should not do. If you are like that, you are going to fight judging other people.

2) I do not watch for my own pride to see if it is involved in my thinking or actions.

We should ALWAYS ask ourselves things like: "When I am thinking like this _____, is that pride or humility?" "When I did this _____, was that prideful or humble?"

If those questions are never on our mind, you will probably have more struggles with judging than many people

A lot of times when people struggle with judging, it has a lot to do with:

3) They are stuck on not completely forgiving someone else in their past.

I have seen this many times cause the person to continue to have attitudes and conflict with others, and it made them to where they were prone to judging others.

4) Things bother us about people, or circumstances, more when we are not doing all that is in the bible, or all God wants from us.

There are probably at least 2 reasons this is the case:

(1) We are not hearing God's insights on things that would have helped change our attitude.

(2) Our weakness at this point makes us a easy target for Satan to use.

5) God has tried to speak to us before about this, or somethings else, and we haven't changed.

6) I have not grown in the area of "being hard to offend." (In other words, I'm too easy to offend.) There are way too many Christians who are still too easy to offend.

7) "I think I know what is wrong with everyone else, and God agrees with me."

Then what happens is you develop this attitude like you are right and others are wrong. "God is on my side in this." If you think like that you will be more judgemental.

It is better to think "Does God want us to do such-n-such, or not do such-n-such, and if so, how does He want me to handle it?"

Here is the difference between the two ways of thinking:

- On the first way of thinking, it is easy to think I am always right, and this other person is really messing up God's will. With that line of thinking, most of the time I will be I trying to change something about the other person, on my own.

- With the 2nd way of thinking, whereby I think I may know God's will on something, my focus is "If God wants it to change, it is up to Him."

When we think like this, we are no longer blaming, condemning others. We view ourselves as "whatever God wants me to say or do, I will do that."

This helps us not get so frustrated. It helps us not put ourselves in charge of changing others. It helps us to stay humble. I focus on trying to be sure of my own way of viewing something, then say or do only what God tells me. Changing the person is not my problem. If I am right, rather than get angry, I make it God's problem. My job is not to fight God's battles for Him, but rather just do what God wants me to do.

On this 2nd way of thinking, your attitude will be good, you will have less frustrations, and you won't carry this huge load.

6. How can I get better at loving others?

It is easy to think of ourselves as loving when we are around people we know really well, (like family or close friends), or people who are easy to love.

Really, the true test of love is when we are dealing with people who, at least occasionally, are harder to love. Some counselors, or writer's of books, refer to those kind of people as "dealing with difficult people."

Maybe we should start with asking ourselves *"Am I one of those difficult people?"*

Here are some things that can help us improve when the bible verses tells us to love others:

- 1) We have to see that "loving and caring toward others" is the 2nd most important thing God expects of all Christians.** (It's the 2nd greatest commandment. *Are you violating the 2nd greatest commandment?*)
- 2) Always compare what you don't like about someone to "What did other believers in the bible do to handle their frustrations with others. And,"*what did Jesus have to put up with, yet He still did the right thing?*"**
- 3) When you have to try harder to keep loving others & handling things right, what thinking do you need to change in order to accomplish that?**

"I cannot change anyone. If God wants the situation to change, that is up to Him. I can only do, or say, what God wants me to do or say. I am here to do what God wants me to do."

This takes the pressure off of yourself. It also takes away your condemning of others. And, it helps greatly with your own anger.

Here is a good question:

4) *When you are trying to love others, would others see God coming through you? Or, would they see the ugly side of you? Does our body language show disapproval and lack of love?* Remember [Col. 3:3](#) "You died and your life is now hidden with Christ."

5) **True love reveals itself most when it involves 2 things:**

(1) Loving difficult people

(2) When loving others involves having to be unselfish in order to love.

An example of that would be I make time in my life to hang out with an unsaved person, just to love them. *How is that unselfish?* Because I have to add to my weekly schedule in order to do that.

Another example would be I have to tolerate a little more, not make a big deal out of little things, in order to love them.

Summary -

Today we have looked at a summary of scripture on some of the most important ways a true Christian should be living and thinking. A lot of it had to do with relationships with others or frustrations with others. 6 of the 10 commandments have to do with relationships with others. We are told in the bible that we are to love others, as ourselves. To be able to do that, we have to change how we think. Our thinking is interfering with our ability to love.

The things I have talked about in this sermon is a lot that God has taught me over the years. I have had to change my own thinking in so many ways in order to love other people. Sometimes I forget some of it, and then end up doing the wrong things again. But, I am absolutely convinced that the way we are transformed is by the renewing or changing of our minds. In other words, we absolutely must allow God to show us how to think right so we are better able to obey what the bible tells us to do. **THEN YOU WILL KNOW THE WILL of GOD.** ([Romans 12:2](#)) Then you will know how God wants you to handle things, do things. Then your life has God flowing through instead of the ugly side of you.

If you asked me what I believe God feels are some of the most important things for how we should live I would tell you this:

It mostly has to do with the 2nd greatest commandment, and that is to truly love people. Judging, holding grudges, having anger issues, not learning when we get angry, & not looking at ourselves, all of these things will interfere with the 2nd greatest commandment.

Then, hearing God is VITAL to the Christian life. *How can we do what God wants us to do on earth if we do not know how to hear God?* We will get into more of that with Part 3.

We all have a choice: Spend our lives fighting to hold back our frustrations, or learn to think like God wants us to think. Jesus said it best when He said "...learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." ([Matthew 11:29](#))

There is a better way of living the christian life, but you are going to have to allow God to change the way you think.

Closing Prayer Lee Conner