

# Always

6-14-15

The Christian way of life should include some characteristics that are uniquely repetitive. This sermon calls these characteristics “ALWAYS” qualities. While they are not inherently unique to Christians only, they reflect our understanding of the Bible and our commitment to the Christian way of life in seeking to be pleasing to the Father just as our savior, Jesus, did. What can the Lord depend on you to Always do?

## 10 things Christians Should ALWAYS Do

- 1) **Treat others as you would have them treat you**-This is a hallmark of Christianity. Be kind to people, even when they are unkind to you. Love thy neighbor as thyself using **PATIENCE AND MERCY (Matthew 22:39)**.
- 2) **Help Some People**-Jesus tells us that we are to give food to those who are hungry, give clothes to people who need them, provide shelter for people who have none, visit people who are sick (Galatians 6:2 and Matthew 25:40).
- 3) **Stop Worrying**-How many of you can increase his life by one day by worrying (Matthew 6:27).
- 4) **Read the Bible**-General Christian guidelines-4 gospels: wisdom = proverbs: Closeness to the Lord=Psalms. Life guidelines (i.e., the 10 Commandments)=Exodus. Origin of the Earth/Species=Genesis. Regarding PEOPLE: Jesus provided examples for ultimate purposeful living=Matthew-Mark-Luke-John. Abraham=Faithfulness. Job=Endurance through Trials. Noah=God’s Patience Limits. Joseph=God’s promise to convert evil into good.  
**16**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17**so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16).
- 5) **Give Thanks and be Joyful**-Be joyful always; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- 6) **Pray**-Prayer is the only tool we have and it is the only tool we need. Prayer is so important that Jesus gave us an example of how to pray in the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). He prayed a lot. He would get up early while it was still dark and go to a deserted place to pray (Mark 1:35). Pray in faith (Matthew 21:22 and James 1:6), pray with patience (Luke 18:1–8), pray in obedience (Psalms 66:18 and 1 Peter 3:12), and pray in submission to God's greater wisdom (Luke 22:42).
- 7) **Forgive your enemies**-We must forgive to be forgiven. Jesus said: For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you (Matthew 6:14-15).
- 8) **Be careful what you say**- Life and death are in the power of the tongue (Matthew 6:14 and Proverbs 18:21).

**9) Learn the Word of God-DEFENSE:** be able to quote scriptures by heart and use God's words as first line of defense against the enemy just as Jesus did. Jesus responded to Satan's temptations by saying man shall not live by bread alone... Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve (Matthew 4:3-10). Knowledge of scripture makes us trustworthy in God's sight (John 15:7).

**10) Tell Others about Jesus-**that he died for our sins, and that all who believe in him are saved and are given the gift of eternal life in heaven (Mark 16:15 and John 3:16).

**11) Fasting-**breaks bonds of wickedness and oppression and protects your back from attacks of the enemy (Isaiah 58:6). It is to be done cheerfully. The disciples learned that fasting is essential if they were to be like Jesus. Regarding demon possession, the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not drive it out? Jesus replied, But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:19-21).

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