GOD’S PLAN FOR STAYING YOUNG AND FRUITFUL (3)

Psalms 92:12-15

When you open and read God’s Word, do you read God’s word with the deep realization that He loves you and has nothing but His divine best for you? Or do you read God’s Word with “fear” thinking that God is out to jump on you, and “get you” for one thing or the other. Sadly the latter is the way many people read the Word of God, therefore they never realize the many wonders that their Loving God has in store for them— one of those being a life lived to the brim with vitality and fruitfulness.

God’s very Word declares this wonderful truth, “The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like the cedar in Lebanon…. They shall still bring forth fruit in old ages: they shall be fat and flourishing” Ps. 92:12,14 KJV. Put in more contemporary words here is the divine truth. “But the godly shall flourish like palm trees and grow tall as the cedars of Lebanon. Even in old age they will produce fruit and be vital and green. Ps.92:12,14 LB.

The reality of the eternal Word of God declares that He has declared His divine way that we can stay young and fruitful all the days of our lives— else He would not have penned it in His Word. Yet, sadly, many people are missing out, by turning to medicines, drugs, oriental religions that have nothing to do with the Living God, and the end result is a life that is “meager” at best.

Since God created us, and gave us life, by His holy and loving nature, He wants for our lives, His abundance and His blessings, and His plan is not temporary but eternal. When He created the very first man, God placed them in His Garden with His best, and His nature has not changed. For God cannot change. He nature is “changeless”. The serious issue that we face is this…. are we doing those things outlined in His word that lead to being young and fruitful.

The truth is you can discover God’s plan for “remaining young in spirit and fruitful” in His Word, and by looking at godly men who followed His plan. Ten ingredients of the godly person is that they live and:

- Keep … “Thanking”.
- Keep … “Singing”.
- Keep … “Remembering”.
- Keep … “Learning”.
- Keep … “Loving”.
- Keep … “Obeying”.
- Keep…. “Laughing”.

- Keep … “Leaving”.
- Keep… “Longing”.
- Keep… “Enjoying”.

1. KEEP… “FOCUSED”. When you read the lives of men like Moses, David, Paul, Peter, here is a “common reality” of each of their lives… they lived their lives “focused” daily on the Lord God that created them, and the Savior that redeemed them. Paul the apostle declared it this way, “…This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.” (Phil. 3:13).

   The life of Paul till the day of death was marked by “a focus” on the Lord who redeemed him, saved him, and set him free. When you look at the life of any godly person there is a “mark of focus” in his or her life, regardless of age or status. God promises His abundance, but His abundance, and fruitfulness never comes when a person loses his or her focus in their walk with the Lord.

   The truth is “focus” is needed in success in every avenue of life. A healthy person doesn’t remain healthy by losing his focus. However, the world we live in finds many Christians “once faithful”. Many could stand and say, “Years ago I was faithful” or “I once lived my life to glorify God.” The life of Solomon, the wisest man in the Bible is a reminder that a person can lose his focus in their Christian journey. Solomon, though the wisest man in all the Bible, lost his focus at the end of his life. The Bible declares that: “King Solomon loved many strange women.” He had 700 hundred wives and 300 hundred concubines. (1 Kings 11)

   Here was a man that complete lost his focus toward the Living God, though he was the wisest man that lived. This is a sobering reminder that if King Solomon can lose his focus, we can lose our focus, and the truth is, the world is filled with Christians that were” faithful, focused, devoted, dependable, yielded, and obedient. But because of the snares of Satan, they have “STOPPED” bearing fruit, and their righteous walk has ceased.

2. KEEP… “LABORING”. Another character trait of those that stand “righteous and flourish” before the Living God, is the mark of “labor”. When you review carefully the men and women in Scripture that stayed young or young in heart, and fruitful… you will quickly discover another common denominator among their lives… they were not lazy, slothful when it came to their “work ethic”. The truth is God has placed in His Word the key to continued vitality and part of that has to do with our labor.

   God’s personal voice reminds us in Exodus 20:9, “Six days shalt thou labor, and do all they work.” God was not giving to His people a
“slavish work ethic” but was reminding them how they were created by His holy hand. God through Moses reminded His people that they were created to “be active”. While many people desire abundance, the truth is, there is no abundance from God’s vantage point when we neglect the activity of our lives and bodies. In recent years, science has discovered the power of “moving” and “staying healthy”. Yet, God gave these truths better than 3000 years ago.

There are many that believe that when they reach “retirement age” they can “sit and do nothing”. However, to do so is not of God, neither is it biblical. Many people discover their health deteriorating the moment they stop laboring and exercising their body. Why? Because we are created for loving labor unto the Lord! There was probably no one with the work ethic in the Old Testament like Moses, yet the Bible declares that he had the strength of a young man at 120. While that may not be the case in your life…the command of God, and key to staying young and fruitful is “laboring”, “working”. The reality is, the body you were given was not created for “slothfulness”. Therefore God’s blessings of vitality and fruitfulness are never on those who live that type of life.

3. **KEEP…“GIVING THE POSITIVES”**. The life of abundance and fruitfulness also involves a spirit of “giving”. The divine word of God, given through His servant Luke declares this divine and eternal principle, in Luke 6:38 *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.* It is important to notice in this verse that the Bible opens with the simple words “Give” without putting any specific noun afterwards.

The eternal and divine law is this….whatever you give away will come back, regardless of your personal beliefs. Because it is a divine law of God. Therefore a fruitful and righteous person “gives away” the positives in life. A person who is fruitful gives away; grace, kindness, mercy, love, compassion and money. Why? Because he is well aware that God will never be indebted to a single person. When God promises our giving will come back…IT WILL COME BACK!!! Notice the wording, “Give and IT shall be given unto you.” For those who are righteous, they have found this to be true all throughout their lives. A righteous person gets back kindness because he gives kindness, he receives mercy, because he shows mercy. The believer that doesn’t take God’s Word serious always finds himself in one trouble or another…because they give away the negatives…and reap the negatives. That is simply the law of God. The promise of Holy God is “your giving” will come back to you “pressed down and shaken together, and running over.” The sobering truth is this…if you want to reap the positives…then the command of God is to “give the positives” all throughout your life.

4. **KEEP…“FORGIVING”**. If there is one thing that powerfully “subtracts” from the joys of life and living…it is the reality of being hurt by others around us that are: friends, family, and church family. Many people have started the day off well, when only to find before the day was over someone who willfully hurt them, or said something behind their back that led to an unforgiving spirit, not only for days, but even years.

The reality of many who are missing out on the joys of life…is that unforgiveness has found a home in their heart, leading to bitterness, and later ill health. No one knew the pain of unforgiveness better than Paul the apostle. Many times he talked about being rejected, forsaken, abandoned, criticized, which would lead an average person to live a life of unforgiveness. But God taught Paul the power of forgiveness and God through Paul has passed that down to us. Ephesians 4:32 *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. He was willfully hurt by others deliberately and intentionally. The truth about forgiveness is: 1) God has forgiven us. 2) God has empowered us to forgive. 3) Forgiveness is willfully releasing the person who has hurt us. 4) Forgiveness is an act of our free will. 5) Forgiveness removes the agony and bondage in our spirit toward another, and gives us freedom. 6) Forgiveness restores us to abundance before Holy God. The moment we discontinue forgiving is the moment we “bondage” becomes a reality in our life.

5. **KEEP…“FAITHFUL”**. The sobering truth of Scripture is this…there is only one life that can experience and be blessed before Holy God…it is the life of faithful devotion to God TILL DEATH. No where in Scripture has God given any of His children a right to be faithless. The reminder of Jesus in the last book of Scripture is that He is coming to reward every man according to “his work”. When we are faithful day by day, we live with: inner peace, joy, a realization that we are right with our Creator. We also live with this wonderful truth that God will reward us for our faithful devotion. Imagine the sheer joy of “knowing” that you have been faithful to the best of your ability to the Lord God in every avenue and area of life. Paul the apostle knew well that God always honors the life that is lived with “faithful devotion”. Paul knew that his faithfulness paid dividends while on earth…and would result in wonderful dividends in eternity…it would result in a crown of righteousness. Is the mark of your life a life of “faithful devotion” day in and day out for the Living God. That is the only life that is marked with His abundance and His blessings.