

## Thriving in (not just surviving) College

Life skills: wise behavior that helps us function successfully in life despite the obstacles and challenges that life inevitably brings; Matt. 7:24-27, Proverbs 10:25

Success: coming to understand and fulfilling the purpose of God in our own generation; Acts 13:36- For David, after serving the purpose of God in his own generation, died and was buried with his fathers (The New Berkeley Version in Modern English)

Behavior

Character quality

I. Functioning wisely \_\_\_\_\_

II. Functioning with wise \_\_\_\_\_

III. Functioning wisely \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Example: Christians in Thessalonica experienced hardships in their lives and yet their lives became "an example to all the believers" in their own generation in their sphere of influence. 1 Thess. 1:6-7



## What Happened in Thessalonica?

1 Thessalonians 1:8-9 “For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned from idols to serve the living and true God”

What was it about those in Thessalonica that resulted in such a dramatic change in their lives from the norm of that day, that word of what happened had spread to the whole region where Paul was ministering? 1 Thess. 2:13

In his book, Lifestyle Discipleship, Jim Petersen explains the basic elements of the process of spiritual transformation that begins at conversion and how to help a person in this process. “Usually the realization that we have a need to change begins with an experience...The experiences we are especially interested in here are those that are symptoms of deeper needs; things that reveal wrong attitudes, fears, destructive behaviors, and so on...The appropriate response to an insight gained through experience is to turn to the Scriptures. When we are sorting through something that’s happening, whether it is something good, a problem, a trial, or a decision we face, **we have a special need for God’s Word. Without it we are unable to make sense of our experiences.**” In discussing how to help a new Christian in this process he further explains, “Help the new believer understand the things he or she is experiencing...The most important thing at this point is to get the experience out into the light so that it can be understood for what it is. **Teach the person how to listen to God on the matter....**Get this person started reading, meditating, and praying over the Scriptures... The person needs to learn to listen to God’s voice.” Pages 105-121

J.I. Packer, in his book, Knowing God, explains; “we must say that knowing God involves, first listening to God’s Word and receiving it as the Holy Spirit interprets it, in application to oneself; second, noting God’s nature and character, as His Word and works reveal it; third, accepting His invitations and doing what He commands; fourth, recognizing and rejoicing in the love He has shown in thus approaching you and drawing you into His divine fellowship.” Page 37



Greek words for word:

LOGOS the word, not in its outward form, but as connected with the inward thought...the embodiment and the outward expression of the invisible thought, so the 2<sup>nd</sup> person (of the Trinity) manifests the invisible Deity, and is said to be “God manifest in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16); “the express image of His person” (Hebrews 1:3); “the image of the invisible God,” (Colossians 1:15)

But further, inasmuch as the LOGOS, as the Living Word, became so to manifest and reveal Deity to us, so “the written Word” was given with the same object and for the same purpose.

A Critical Lexicon and Concordance. Bullinger

RHEMA denotes that which is spoken, what is uttered in speech or writing; in the singular, a word; in the plural, a speech or discourse. The significance of RHEMA (as distinct from LOGOS) is exemplified in the injunction to take the “sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,” Ephesians 6 :17; Here the reference is not to the whole Bible as such, but to the individual scripture which **the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need...**

Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Vine

Scriptural examples:

Luke 4:1-13 records that Jesus answered all three of His temptations in the wilderness with quotations from the book of Deuteronomy.

Mark 10: 42-45 is an example of a RHEMA from the Lord to the disciples while He was on His way to Jerusalem to go to the cross and they were arguing about which one of them was greater.

John 17:6-8, “I have manifested thy name unto the men whom thou gavest me...For I have given unto them the words (RHEMA) which thou gavest me and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out of thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.”

John 17:17, “Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word (LOGOS) is truth.”

John 15: 7, “If ye abide in Me, and My words (RHEMA) abide in you, ye shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you.”



## **Six principles that help us learn to hear the Lord's word to us**

Matt. 7:24-25

“Therefore , every one who hears these words of Mine and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man , who built his house upon the Rock; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall; for it had been founded upon the rock”

**The Lord wants us to hear His word to us in such a way that we act upon it.**

John 14:26, 16:13

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to remembrance all that I have said to you.”  
“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth”

**Jesus said that the Holy Spirit explains His word to us and reminds us of His teaching**

John 7:17

“If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself”

**Hearing from the Lord (having insight into what the Lord is speaking to us about) is based on having a willingness to obey what He says.**

John 14:21

“He who has My commandments, and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him”

**Hearing the Lord's word to us and putting it into practice helps us to grow in our knowledge of Him.**

Psalm 119:18

“Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law.”

Psalm 139:23-24

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way”

**When we spend time in God's word we can pray and ask Him to give us insight into our need and into His answer for that need.**



James 1:21-25 “So put away all filth and evil excess and humbly welcome the message implanted within you, which is able to save your souls. But be sure you live out the message and do not merely listen to it and so deceive yourselves. For if someone merely listens to the message and does not live it out, he is like someone who gazes at his own face in a mirror. For he gazes at himself and immediately forgets what sort of person he was. But the one who peers into the perfect Law of liberty and fixes his attention there, and does not become a forgetful listener but one who lives it out—he will be blessed in what he does.” The NET Bible

Romans 15:4 “All those writings of long ago were written for our instructions, so that through the patience and encouragement of the Scripture we might have hope.” Berkeley (that through the patience and the comfort **wrought by** the Scriptures we may have our hope, Word Studies in the Greek New Testament, Wuest)

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and the marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

2 Peter 1:20-21 “Above all, you do well if you recognize this: No prophesy of Scripture ever comes about by the prophet’s own imagination, for no prophecy was ever borne of human impulse, rather men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” The NET Bible

**We have a special need for God’s Word. Without it we are unable to make sense of our experience. We need to listen to God on the matter and be reading, meditating, and praying over the Scriptures. We need to *Read, Reflect, and then Respond to the Lord in praise (having noted God’s nature and character), confession (having accepted His invitation to repent of wrongdoing that He has revealed to us), thanksgiving (rejoicing; having recognized the love He has shown us in approaching us and drawing us into His divine fellowship), and/or supplication(asking Him to help us to personally apply the particular RHEMA we have received).***

