

# God's Word Shows Me The Way

**Step Ten: Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.**

What's right? What's wrong? What's helpful? What's harmful? How can we know? God has given us a lot of help in this regard in the Bible. God has a plan for our life that is meant for satisfaction, meaning, and joy. God has provided safe and sure ways to proceed towards the goal, and live enriched by goodness and love through each step of the journey.

***"Be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus".*** (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Do I worry about anything? Have I neglected to thank God for all things, the seemingly bad as well as the good? When do I take time to specifically acknowledge, with gratitude, the many gifts provided in each day?

***"To God who by means of His power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of: To God be the glory".*** (Ephesians 3:20)

Do I fail to attempt things for God because I think I am not talented enough? Do feelings of inferiority keep me from trying to serve God and live life fully? When I do accomplish something, do I neglect to give God thanks for giving me the ability and strength to do it?

***"And because of God's gracious gift to me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you. We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions.***

Am I proud of my accomplishments, my talents, my family in a way that sets me up as "better than" others? Do I fail to see others as better than myself, more important than myself? Do I insist on my own rights without considering, checking and balancing, the experience and rights of the other persons involved? Do I think I am doing, "Just fine,

thank you very much"? Do I rebel at God wanting to change me?

***"Get rid of all bitterness, passion, and anger. No more shouting or insults, no more hateful feelings of any sort. Instead, be kind and tender-hearted to one another and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ".*** (Ephesians 4:31,32)

Do I complain, find fault, argue? Do I have a critical spirit? Do I carry a grudge against another person or group because they don't see eye-to-eye with me on some things? Do I speak unkindly about people when they are not present? Am I angry with myself? Others? God?

***"Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and who was given to you by God. You do not belong to yourselves but to God. God bought you for a price. So use your bodies for God's glory.*** (1 Corinthians 6:19,20)

Am I careless with my body? Am I guilty of not caring for it as the temple of the Holy Spirit in eating, exercise, rest, food, sex, substance abuse?

***"Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you".*** (Ephesians 4:29)

Do I ever use filthy language, tell off-colour jokes? Do I condone others doing so in my presence, in my home? Do I spend more time talking about problems rather than possible solutions? Do I speak with judgment against someone rather than describing my feelings and my experience and asking for the same from someone else? Do I complain and condemn? Do I fail to encourage and name the good that others are doing? Do I speak my gratitude for helpful and considerate deeds?