

Four Principles To A Successful And Fulfilling Life

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Live on 80% of your income: The first 10% you earn is your tithe, and belongs to God. If you don't do this, then you are robbing God. God knows money is important to us, and a tithe is one of the primary ways He keeps covenant with us. (Read Malachi 3:10 and Proverbs 3: 9-10) If you tithe out of your first fruits (before you pay any other bills) God will bless you with supernatural abundance – beyond what even makes sense. You are putting your money where your mouth is and proving to God that He comes first, and positioning yourself to receive the blessings He wants to give you.

You should save the second 10% of your income and pay yourself second. At first you should accumulate 6 months living expenses in a bank account, and always maintain this level of bank savings. Next, once you have enough “emergency savings” you should invest this 10% of your income for your future in a 401(k), IRA, or other long range investment account. “People who save money have it when they need it. Those who don't will always be broke and struggling financially.” Live within your means. Don't fall prey to buying things on credit that you can't afford. Be aware of your budget.

Be a person of integrity: Don't make any promises or commitments that you won't fulfill. Be excellent in everything you do – as if you were doing it for the Lord. As a matter of fact, make it a pledge to always deliver *more* than you promise. Learn to be brutally honest with yourself about yourself. Over time this will pay off in a big way, and will become the foundation of your reputation. Good intentions are absolutely worthless. Live by the “golden rule” – do unto others as you would have them do unto you. You will always reap what you sow over time.

Pay your Dues: While in your 20's and 30's, prepare to work extra hard and to the best of your ability. Follow your heart and the Lord's leading. Learn all you can about your chosen profession, relationships with people, and of course with God. Make your time count. You'll carry the fruit (or lack of) from these precious years (and they go by too quickly) for the rest of your life. The choice is up to you.

Healthy diet and regular exercise: Make time every week to engage in vigorous exercise that you enjoy, and eat a *healthy*, balanced diet. It's no joke that you are what you eat, and your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. If you acquired a brand new Ferrari, would you fill the tank with stale gasoline that's been sitting in the garage for 3 years? That is what you do to yourself if you regularly eat junk-food, fast food, etc.

“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.