

Life is full of pitfalls. The question is, "How do we avoid them?" What's the secret to avoiding life's pitfalls? The answer ... Wisdom! Wisdom is the secret to avoiding the pitfalls of life and today we'll discover "Five Steps To Wiser Living" so we can avoid the pitfalls of life.

The Secret To Avoiding Life's Pitfalls

"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. Whatever else you get, get insight! Love wisdom and she will make you great!" Proverbs 4:7-8 (GN)

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

"Wisdom is more valuable than precious jewels; nothing you could want can ever compare with it. Wisdom offers you long life, wealth and honor. (It) can make your life pleasant and lead you safely through it. Those who become wise are happy." Proverbs 3:16-18 (GN)

Five Steps To Wiser Living

Step 1: ESTABLISH _____

"How does a person become wise? The first step is to trust and revere the Lord." Proverbs 1:7 (LB)

"For the reverence and fear of God is basic to all wisdom. Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding" Proverbs 9:10 (LB)

Step 2: EXAMINE _____

"These are the wise sayings of Solomon...Written down so we'll know how to live well and right, to understand what life means and where it's going..." Proverbs 1:1-2 (MESSAGE)

"They can teach you how to live intelligently." Proverbs 1:3 (GN)

Step 3: EXPRESS _____

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." James 1:5 (NIV)

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7 (NIV)

Step 4: EXPECT _____

"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does." James 1:6-8 (NIV)

Step 5: EXECUTE _____

"Never forget what I tell you to do. Do what I say and you will live. Be careful to follow it..." Proverbs 7:1-2 (GN)

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James 1:22 (NIV)

Five Challenges For This Series

Challenge #1: _____

“Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. Whatever else you get, get insight! Love wisdom and she will make you great!” Proverbs 4:7-8 (GN)

Challenge #2: _____

“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts ... broke bread in their homes & ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46-47 (NIV)

Challenge #3: _____

*“You are the salt of the earth . . . “You are the light of the world . . . Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)*

Challenge #4: _____

*“You were told that your foolish desires will destroy you and that you must give up your old way of life with all its bad habits. Let the Spirit change your way of thinking and make you into a new person. You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy.”
Ephesians 4:22-24 (CEV)*

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

Challenge #5: _____

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Personal Study - Growth Homework

GETTING STARTED

Who is the wisest person you've ever known?

If you had a dream and God told you, you could have whatever you asked for, what would you say? What would be the one thing you would ask God for?

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

On Sunday we looked at Five Steps To Wiser Living. Each of these steps has barriers and hurdles we have to overcome if we want to wise up. What are some of the barriers, fears, hang-ups and hurdles people have to overcome in each of these steps? After step one, which one is the hardest for you to do? Why?

Step 1: ESTABLISHING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Step 2: EXAMINING GOD'S WORD

Step 3: EXPRESSING MY DESIRE FOR WISDOM

Step 4: EXPECTING GOD TO ANSWER

Step 5: EXECUTING WHAT GOD'S SAYS TO DO

DIGGING DEEPER

In this study we were given five challenges for this series. How & why is each of these important if we want to avoid life's pitfalls?

What will or has the enemy used in your life to keep you from doing or living out each of these challenges?

CHALLENGE #1: STUDY (Proverbs 4:7-8)

Reading a chapter a day of Proverbs. What's one thing you've read so far that has stuck with you?

CHALLENGE #2: SMALL GROUPS (Acts 2:46-47)

Read Acts 2:46-47. What scares us about being open, being honest, real, vulnerable and transparent with others? What does this group need to be a safe place?

CHALLENGE #3: SHINE (Matthew 5:14-16)

Why would the enemy not want us to "Shine"? What must we be willing to do and not do? What are the risks and benefits of living our life as salt and light?

CHALLENGE #4: SHED (Ephesians 4:22-24 & Colossians 3:13)

Why is it hard to change? What are some of the excuses we use for not changing? What does Ephesians 4 say is the key to change? Why is forgiveness hard to give and so dangerous to hold on to? When is it the hardest for you to forgive? Why is forgiveness not an option? How do we rationalize our unwillingness to forgive? When are we to not forgive others?

CHALLENGE #5: SERVE (1 Peter 4:10 & 1 Cor 12:7)

What gifts, talents and abilities has God given you that you could/can use to help others in the community and/or at Hope Church? What keeps us from serving and helping?

What's God Saying To You In This Study?
What Do You Need To Put Into Action?