

A Closer Connection

EIGHT PRINCIPLES TO HELP
YOU HAVE A BETTER
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

JEROME BAKER

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About the author:

Pastor Baker is the pastor of The A Place of Refuge MSW Refuge Center located in Carrollton, Georgia and has served faithfully under the leadership of Bishop Barry Walker since 1996.

Pastor Baker has written three books and numerous booklets to help ministers, youth, young adults, and adults to be productive in leadership and ministry.

Pastor Baker is in full-time ministry and he hosts several annual youth and young adult conferences and seminars at his church. He shepherds the youth church every Sunday morning, mentors young people, and counsels couples, and families.

Pastor Baker also produces the A Place of Refuge Productive Living Television Broadcast with Bishop Barry Walker, The Way 2 Go Television Broadcast and The Way 2 Go Podcast.

Pastor Baker has been married for over 23 years to his wife Teresa, and is the father of two young men.

INTRODUCTION

There are so many young people that are hurting, lost, and lacking truth. I believe the solution is found in the Word of God. Jesus is the answer!

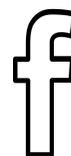
In order to possess happiness, purpose, and fulfillment I believe a solid relationship with the Lord is the remedy to help youth, young adults, and parents.

In this short e-book, I provide eight Biblical principles to help obtain a solid relationship with God.

I pray this manual provides a new beginning for those looking to get closer to God.

At the end of this brief booklet is my social media link. I hope to hear from you and how my e-book helped you, your friend, or family member. Also, I would like to send you a weekly email to keep you encouraged in your walk with God. So be sure to follow the link to my email list at the end of this e-book.

May God continue to look upon you and richly bless you.



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Principle One: Repent

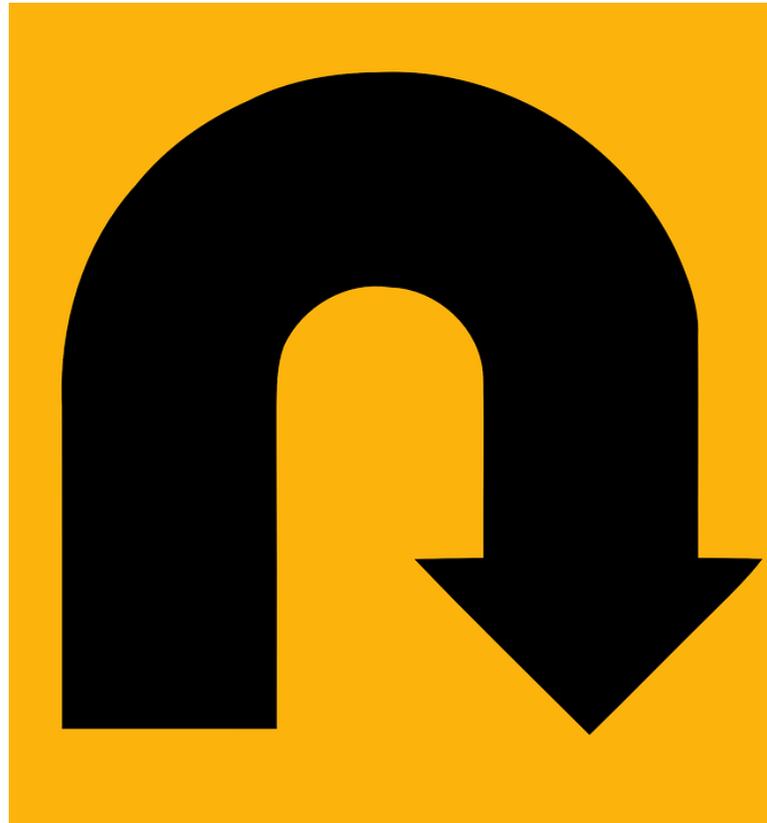
To repent means to have a change of heart. It means to turn. True repentance is knowing wrong has been committed.

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

A closer relationship with God begins with repentance of sin and accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Acts 2:37-39 Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”



Principle Two: Lay Aside Sin



Sin is when a person chooses not to do the will of God.

James 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

A true Christian strives to practice righteousness on a daily basis. A Christian may commit sin from time to time, but when they do they repent. They learn from their mistake, and be determined not to practice sin.

1 John 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

Though sin is pleasurable, if a person chooses to practice sin they experience ruin.

Hebrews 11:25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In order to have a closer connection to God when sin arises in your life remove it. God gives us power through the Holy Spirit to overcome desires which are contrary to God's will.

Galatians 5:16-17 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Principle Three: Pray Daily

Prayer is what helps us not to give up and to remain in the will of God.

Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

Prayer is asking God to help with your concerns, needs, and desires.

Matthew 7:7-10 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?

Does God hear prayer? Yes. But the personal assurance that He has heard your prayer is when the prayer request is in agreement with His Word.

1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

To have a closer connection with God pray daily. Talk to God about your daily endeavors and He will give you direction.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing,

Proverbs 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.



Principle Four: Practice The Word

God has ordained His people to live by the written and spoken Word of God. Read God's Word daily and it will build Godly character and provide guidance. Psalm 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Reading the Word is significant. But it is not enough. It is essential that a child of God attend God's church to hear His spoken Word.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Staying at home or avoiding church is not the will of God. The Bible is clear that saints of God need to live by faith (the Word).

Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Don't listen to hypocrites. Don't listen to jackleg preachers. It is the will of God to listen to the Word of God at a local church, in person, from a sent preacher.

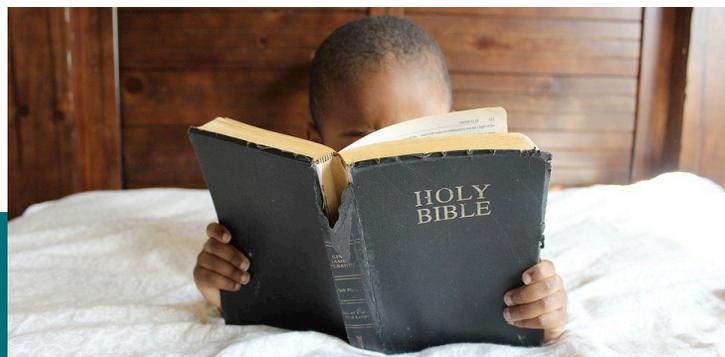
Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

A sent preacher is a pastor that is chosen and empowered by God to feed God's people sound Biblical teaching.

Romans 10:14-15 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?
¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent?...

To have a closer connection to God allow Him to direct you to the right church. Once there receive the Word and put it into action and God will prosper you.

James 1:22-25 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.



Principle Five: Set & Keep Relationship Boundaries



All relationships are not healthy. Evaluate your associates and choose your friends carefully.

Proverbs 12:26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”

To have a closer connection to God it is vital to leave certain people alone.

*Do not be deceived:
“Evil company
corrupts good habits.”
1 Corinthians 15:33*

Principle Six: Walk In Obedience



Obey parents and others that give Biblical and good moral instructions. Make it your business to obey God's Word and those that genuinely care about your life.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: ²⁷ the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; ²⁸ and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

If you truly desire to be closer to God, obey Him.

Principle Seven: Watch Your Mouth

Your words have creative power. Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

One trait of a person that has a close relationship with God is they control their mouth. Job was an upright man. He was so tight with God when he faced trouble he did not sin with his lips. He understood that his words were a reflection of His relationship with God

Job 2:10 But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 27:4 My lips will not speak wickedness, Nor my tongue utter deceit.

Likewise, if we desire a closer connection with God we must be optimistic and always choose to speak the Word. Words can change situations and produce desires.

Mark 11:22-23 So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. ²³For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

Make sure the words and songs you sing are pleasing to God. It is a tell-tell sign of a strong, weak, or lukewarm relationship with God.

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.



Principle Eight: Be Diligent

A hand in a dark blue and white striped shirt sleeve is writing the words "NEVER EVER GIVE UP." in black marker on a light blue chalkboard. The text is written in a bold, slightly irregular font. The background of the chalkboard is a light blue gradient with some white chalk-like smudges.

Never give up. No matter how you mess up keep moving forward. No matter what others say about you, keep moving forward.

Proverbs 24:16 For a righteous man may fall seven times
And rise again,...

A diligent person chooses to do the will of God despite what they go through.

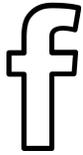
Deuteronomy 6:17 You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you.

Being diligent can be challenging but diligence causes God to release rewards.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Don't allow your past, low self-esteem, family, demons, or negative people to stop you from fulfilling your purpose. Be diligent!

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