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Living Beneath Your Privilege

Dr. T. D. Worthington



I do not want to anyone to read this and assume that I have the Christian life mastered. I do not! I don't even think I am close; and the closer I get, the further away I realize I am. However, there are some principles I have applied that have helped me a lot, and they just might help you too. Trouble is, most people will not follow them, and I really have trouble understanding why. The Bible teaches us...

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

In order to have some things, they must be sought after. ***“Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.” (James 4:2)*** Some things do not come automatic.

I am very happy in my marriage, but many Christians are not. I don't worry a lot and I am seldom angry with any one, but many Christians can't say that. Although I have had limited income, and no retirement except for Social Security, I have always been quite content with our finances, while many Christians struggle from paycheck to paycheck. I love my work, I love my church, I enjoy my

own company. I have often been alone, but I haven't been lonely in over thirty years. Yet, I know some good people battle those things.

I say all this, not because I am a super Christian. Most of these things were true about my parents, and for much of my life they were not even saved. But, it does bother me that these things are not true for a lot of believers. Our gracious Lord has so many unclaimed blessings awaiting you right here on this earth. Abundant life is not just for Heaven, it is for here and now. It concerns me that the church and the world have only seen a limited manifestation of God's power, because as a whole, Christians have

refused to yield to the Word of God. We have handcuffed God in our lives, by keeping His prescription for abundant life, which He freely offered us, locked away. I have an abundant life. Do you feel that you have an abundant life?

You became a Christian by obeying God's Word, that's the way it works. That's the way all things work in the Kingdom. I read once about a man whose lifelong dream was to board a cruise ship and sail to Europe. He dreamed of walking the streets of Rome and Athens, and to visit the land of his ancestors. He saved every penny until he had enough for his passage. Since money was tight, he brought an extra suitcase filled with cans of beans, boxes of crackers, and bags of powdered lemonade, and that is what he lived on every day.

He would have loved to take part in the many activities offered on the ship; working out in the gym, playing miniature golf, and swimming in the pool. He envied those who went to movies and shows. And, oh, how he yearned for only a taste of the amazing food he saw on the ship. Every meal appeared to be a feast! But the man had very little money, so he didn't feel he could participate in any of these pleasures. He was able to see the cities he had longed to visit, but for the most part of the journey, he stayed in his cabin and ate only his humble food.

On the last day of the cruise, a crew member asked him which of the farewell parties he would be attending. He informed the crew member that he did not have the money to attend. It was only

then, that the man learned that not only the farewell party but almost everything on board the cruise ship—the food, the entertainment, all the activities—had been included in the price of his ticket. Too late, the man realized that he had been living far beneath his privileges. The question this story raises is, are we living below our privileges, when it comes to the power, gifts, and blessings that are ours as children of God? Sadly, in our daily lives, there may be little evidence that we are utilizing the resources that God has provided for us.

So, we are faced with a choice. We can be satisfied with a diminished experience as believers and settle for experiences far below our privileges. Or, we can partake of an abundant feast of spiritual opportunity and blessing that has already been purchased for us. It comes with the price of the ticket, and that was paid for by Jesus.

If you are a good employee, you will try to learn as much as you

can about your job. It matters not if you are an electrician, a salesperson, teacher, or a clerk in a store, you want to learn as much as you can. Not only might it help you advance financially, it will also make your work easier and more fulfilling. As people of God, we also need to become experts in applying the principles of God's Word to our lives. So many of us are trying to live this life in our own power. Mom and Dad did that quite successfully for years, but in today's world most folks are so spoiled and weak, such a feat is quite rare.

Sometimes we complain about the behavior of non-Christians, especially their moral and life style choices. But, we must remember they do not have our resources, they do not have our knowledge, they do not have our power. Their lives have not been transformed by the power of Christ. A far bigger concern for me is Christians who are living lives just as bad, if not worse, than lost people. Why are our marriages and finances no better than theirs? Why are our lives just as messed up as theirs?





I know we would all agree that there is saving power in the Gospel. But, just as there is saving power in the Gospel, there is also enabling power in the Gospel. There is the power for believers to live an abundant life. Yet, despite this truth, there are those who are spiritually weak and powerless because they do not avail themselves to the Word of God. You and I have access to the fruit of the Spirit; **Galatians 5:22-23** says: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*

Christian couples, you have the power to have a happy marriage, if you want it bad enough to apply the Scriptures. You have the power to straighten out your finances, if you want it bad enough to apply the Word. You have the power to be as faithful to your church as your lost neighbor is to the volunteer fire department or to his civic club, if you are willing to obey the Lord. You have the power to overcome worry, to forgive the unforgivable, to become longsuffering and

patient, to become a model employee, all this is yours, if you want it bad enough to apply the Scriptures. Yet, so many are living beneath their privilege.

Think of what a glorious thing it is to reach beyond our earthly limitations, to have the eyes of our understanding opened and receive light and knowledge from heavenly sources! It is our privilege and opportunity to seek personal revelation and to learn how to know the truth for ourselves through the sure witness of the Holy Spirit. Far too often we pass through this life wearied, worrying, and whining. We live beneath our privileges when we allow worldly anchors to keep us away from the abundant joy that comes from our union with Christ. We live beneath our privileges when we fail to partake of the feast of happiness, peace, and joy that God grants so bountifully to His children.

Now, perhaps you think you’ve blown it. You’ve messed up. But, know this, your gracious Heavenly Father will not hold those bad

decisions against you, He has not been keeping a tally of your wrong turns and He certainly has not removed your name from the Book of Life.v Your inheritance is still yours. Stop accepting less than what you deserve. Stop selecting less than you desire and stop doing things that make others wonder if you are really His child. You deserve the best and God has the best for you. It’s time to live the life God intended. You are royalty so stop living like a peasant. Take your rightful place in the Kingdom. It is time to stop living beneath your level of privilege.

This is low hanging fruit. All can reach it. Even some lost people have applied the principles of God’s Word to their lives and found blessing. How much the more should you and I?



Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty-five years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.

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The Great Awokening

Chances are you have heard of the Great Awakening. Many of God's people are praying for a new and fresh spiritual awakening. Most of us see this as the only hope for our nation; White, Black, Hispanic, all of us. Satan knows this, so he seeks to undermine this legitimate hope with an illegitimate hope. He desires to unify us in a counterfeit movement that might be called, *"The Great Awokening."*

Perhaps you have noticed it already, and if you have, you know it is obviously not of God. A true move of God does not fight against flesh and blood. It will not be violent toward its neighbors, nor does it condone or promote sin.

Satan's *Great Awokening* will not only turn our nation against God, but also against the political principles that birthed our nation. A true Awakening awakens the human heart to God. The human heart comes to God through Jesus Christ. It will produce the fruit of honor and love for our fellow man. A false movement will fail to display the qualities of love for God in Christ and good will toward humanity.

Unfortunately, many Christians are being deceived into following these false movements. To them, it sounds good to be *"woke"* and alert to injustice. God's people also believe we are to speak up for injustice and cry out for mercy. However, this must be done in a spirit of love and godliness. There is a *"cancel culture"* that seeks to destroy the property, reputation, and future of anyone who disagrees with their beliefs. That is not what Christians do. The book of **Micah** addresses these social ills.

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"
Micah 6:8.

Satan's Great Awokening will take from all Americans, all of us, men and women of every race, the freedom to be what we were destined to become. Rather, let us join together and pray for another Great Awakening. For without a new birth in Christ, we may change laws, but we will never change hearts.



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Instructions?

“*Real men don’t need instructions.*” If you’re a wife, daughter, or just know a guy with his own power tools, you’ve probably heard that statement before. If you’re a man that knows the difference between a Carriage Bolt and a Hex Bolt, you’ve probably said that statement a time or two at some point in your life. Be honest with yourself for just a moment though. Think about those times you were putting together a shelving unit, a kid’s toy, a camping tent, or maybe something more complex. Did you have any pieces left? Come on, now... we’re being honest here, remember? Just one washer? Just one screw? You’ve done it. We’ve ALL done it!

Maybe... just maybe... you were one of the smart ones. You realized about a quarter way through the project that you should probably look at those instructions you were so quick to disregard and throw out with the box. Even though you were the smart one, you still probably only concluded you needed those instructions after putting a piece on backwards or using the wrong fastener in the wrong place. *(Insert long sigh.)* Yeah, we’ve ALL done that too!

Now, how much easier would it have been if we had just followed those instructions in the first place? How much time and aggravation would we have saved? What about the result? Wouldn’t we have had a better, more secure product if we didn’t have those pieces left over or drill those extra holes we didn’t need? Most definitely!

Isn’t that a lot like how we choose to live our Christian lives sometimes? We have the best book of instructions there is, God’s Word! In fact, we have a direct line of communication with the Author! So why do we go about our day forgetting to seek His guidance? Yes, we’ve ALL done it.

If you’re still struggling to fit all those pieces together, maybe it’s time to pull out those instructions and have a chat with the with the One who wrote them. If you need a little assistance with a daily reminder, hopefully tuning in to **GoMix Christian Radio** can help. Thanks to our *Faith Partners*, we’re here 24 hours a day, pointing you in the right direction!

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Difficult Medicine

Mrs. Sherry Worthington



“Oh, gross! Mom, this is gross! It feels all squishy to my hands. I hate to unstop the sink. It’s got all kinds of gook in the bottom. It feels yucky!” Mom would look amused and say, *“You just put the same stuff in your mouth, and it looks much worse in your stomach.”* Of course, I made a terrible face. As many children have often replied, I quickly piped up, *“But that’s different.”*

My mom then coined a phrase for me! She said, *“Okay, ‘Miss Nice Nasty’. You just wait. Gook in the bottom of the sink will be nothing one day.”*

One thousand diapers, many stopped-up toilets, and countless upset stomachs later, my mother’s words still ring true. Unstopping the sink is just simply no big deal. Don’t get me wrong, some things

still gross me out, but that is not one of them. I have seen several documentaries that turned my stomach.

I walked into the room after this documentary was already on TV. A woman was on the screen with her foot propped up, and she had little worms crawling all over the bottom section of her foot. Of course, you can imagine the disgust that I expressed at the time. I thought this documentary was about the filth that people lived in, but I quickly realized that her surroundings were not filthy. So, with a frown on my face, I sat down to see what was going on. I soon learned the documentary was about a new way to fight infection in Europe. The worms were maggots. The doctors had put them on this poor woman’s foot. I immediately thanked God for living in the USA.

When I got over the initial shock and disgust, I became interested. This woman had been very sick, and her infection was spreading. The doctor had tried all different types of conventional approaches, and nothing worked. He then tried something learned from the battlefields of war. The doctor put sterilized maggots on the wound and wrapped it! Can you imagine? Sterilized flies! The maggots didn’t eat the healthy skin underneath, because they only ate decaying dead tissue. The wound was miraculously healed.

The narrator then explained how the doctors stumbled onto this knowledge. When soldiers were on the battlefield, the flies would lay eggs on their wounds. There was no one to care for them so the maggots would just stay in the wound. When the men came home, the doctors would immediately clean the wound and dress it. But the infection would get worse instead of better, and the soldiers would die. The soldiers who had the maggots in their wounds for longer periods were getting better. From these facts, doctors in Europe began to do experiments on “willing” people, those patients on which conventional approaches had not been successful.

The thought of bugs crawling on me with my permission is totally crazy. The people on the show said the same thing. One lady said that she was in so much pain that she was willing to try anything. The idea was repulsive to her, too, but she knew if something did not happen soon, she would die. The astonishing thing was how quickly she began to see results.

I learned that something I find repulsive has a purpose and can be a blessing. I always thought that flies, gnats, roaches, and mosquitos were put here as a part of the curse back in Eden. My finite mind has had a hard time believing there was a purpose for these annoying creatures except to make man miserable.

I learned many things about maggots in that documentary. I wish it was as easy to learn the lessons of life. I began to ponder over this gross creature, and how I had been enlightened after all these years. I began to relate this to my spiritual walk. Why does it take so long to realize the bad things in life can be good things? Do most people have blinders on when it comes to difficult lessons? What about the things we find annoying, or even worse, catastrophic. I have a friend who was laid off from her job and didn't understand why. The bills were still coming in, and she did not see how her family would survive. A new job opened up making less money, but it was in a Christian environment. She now looks back at this experience as a time when God was working behind the scenes, but when she was going through the crisis, she thought God had forgotten her.

I know of several people whose health problems enabled them to be a greater witness for Christ. Even though David Ring has Cerebral Palsy, he has reached thousands sharing the goodness of God. Ron Hamilton, Patch the Pirate, has reached thousands of children despite losing one of his eyes to cancer. Since he had to wear a patch over his eye, he asked God how he could use this handicap. I



wonder at what point those men started looking at something bad as something good.

The Bible has several instances of men and women going through something that would appear to be bad but turns out to be a blessing. How could something as evil as being sold into slavery end up being good? How could being forced to marry a foreign king end up saving a race of people?

In your life and mine, there are many instances where things seem bleak. Bad things are happening around us, and we see no escape. We feel God has left us for the worms. Perhaps a hardship is eating at some infection in your life. I know that I have seen ways God has helped me grow through difficult times by letting the worms eat at the infection that is seeping into my life. When I tried to fight the lessons or refused to learn from them, they remained a catastrophic and negative experience; but when I have allowed God to teach me, I have come to appreciate the struggles. At times it has taken many years to find what God had planned through the pain. I am also aware that some things I won't understand until I get to Heaven.

If you look deep in your heart, God will show you some reasons for your struggles, as He showed Paul about his thorn in the flesh. Sometimes, we really don't want to know why because we are more comfortable feeling sorry for ourselves and making excuses for our shortcomings. We must really fight the temptations to choose this path.

I have a new respect for maggots. I learned about a new medicine that has actually been here from the beginning of time. Maybe there is a spiritual medicine that God has been trying to give us for years, and yet we refuse to take it. Who is really being hurt? We would like to think ignoring the spiritual lessons will only hurt ourselves, but it hurts all who come in contact with our lives. So, let's take the medicine God has allowed to come into our lives and work with it. We will be surprised at the result.



Mrs. Worthington has five children and twelve grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.

What the World Needs Now

Dr. Glenn Mills



“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Hatred and racism should be condemned and put down at any level. It is never acceptable from anyone, especially in the Body of Christ. The only thing we should hate is sin and the effect it has on our lives and the lives of others. Prejudice is something everyone deals with on some level. Some have prejudice towards race and color. Some have prejudice towards the poor and rich. Some have prejudice towards the overweight or the skinny. Some, towards position and power. The list could go on and on. If we would be honest with ourselves, prejudice is something we are being delivered from daily. I believe no attention equals no success. If no one had shown up for the hate marches in the past few years except the haters, their different causes would have been unsuccessful. They would have just been idiots marching with torches. But sadly, they got what they wanted – attention. Satan’s lies are useless unless we give attention to them. Those that protest these marches usually show just as much hatred towards the haters marching, thus making them guilty of showing prejudice as well. God hates sin, not sinners.

But let me also say, I’m believing and hoping none of these people, haters or protestors, were Christians. Why? Because if they were, they did not do what the Bible instructs. I am never surprised by the actions of

the ungodly. Their deeds should show Believers how much work there is yet to be done. As I’ve watched some of these events take place, it is very rare to see anyone joining hands to pray. No one proclaims God’s love and grace. I haven’t seen anyone witness God’s truth to the haters. Therefore, I can only conclude no Christians were there. Because regardless of what anyone might think, God has the answer to the problem - love. Jesus tells us best how we are to respond.

“But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn

not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.” (Luke 6:27-37)

Unless I missed something, I don't think I saw any of this behavior on the news. Why? Most of these people were ungodly. That is why we are called to be a light to them. The whole reason we are called out from among them (*unbelievers, those without Christ*) is to show them the way. Once we accept Jesus as our Lord (*Master*) and Saviour, we are to be a holy people. Holy means separated and set apart for divine purpose. That purpose is to show the world who God and Jesus are. God, our loving Father, has gifted each one of us to reach, touch, and impact our world in special ways. We are to be the Jesus they see and the Bible they read. Our daily lives should show the ungodly there is a much better way. The way of love. The way of God.

“So,” you may ask, “*what can I do? I'm just one person.*” My Friend, that is all God needs to change the world you live in. I can't change every city, but I can impact the place where I have influence: home, school, work, the store, the mall, my church, social events, ministry, etc. Your world is where you live. I wonder how many innocent children have heard racist remarks from their parents who watch the news at night. How many Christians have been heard judging when they should have been praying and prophesying God's Word? How many Believers were just as guilty of hatred as those gathered in crowds on the streets? If events like these are going to stop, it will only be because Believers get serious with God and show the world He is the way of love.

We all need to check ourselves and our conversations daily. Please allow me to share a lesson I learned. I was preaching one Sunday morning, and I shared something I learned from another preacher that helped me greatly. I

didn't remember his name, but I referenced him as a “black preacher”. After the service, someone came up to me and asked why I referenced the man as a “black preacher” when I could have just said he was a “preacher”. It would not have changed my point one way or another. They were not trying to be ugly in any way, but they really made me think about why I said what I did. I decided then that unless race needed to be mentioned, there was no need to do it. It was something I needed to be aware of to help me become color blind.

We should examine our hearts daily and keep guard over our lips. I challenge you to remove “color” from your conversation where it is not absolutely necessary. May the only color we see be the red blood of Jesus.

Lastly, we must love people with the love of God. When we love by the flesh, we will only love those who love us like the sinner in **Luke 6:32**. The only way we can love the unlovable, the ungodly, or our enemies, is to love them with the help of the Holy Spirit. Worldly love is fleshly, but Godly love is spiritual. It is God loving through us that makes this possible, my Beloved. God said if we judge ourselves, He will not have to judge us. If we are to influence our world, we must start within our own hearts, and then take God's love to the nations. And remember, our starting point is under our own roof. Thank you so much for allowing me to share my heart. I pray it touches yours in a special way.



Dr. Glenn Mills is a long time supporter of GoMix Christian Radio and a full-time Evangelist with Glenn Mills Ministries. More information is available at www.glennmillsministries.com



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Growing Older

As I progress toward “old age,” I find myself noticing changes that sometimes alarm me. New extra fine lines (*a common euphemism for impending deep wrinkles*) seem to appear at random times. I am long past counting gray hairs. Little aches and pains are becoming more noticeable and persistent. But does growing older have to be all negative? Are there advantages?

For the Christian, I have discovered some advantages. First of all, there is an overwhelming peace that comes with knowing what happens next. God’s Word is filled with illustrations of what awaits us after we depart this world. Most people do not have that peace, but we have God’s reassurance that the incomprehensible pleasures awaiting us far surpass our best earthly experiences.

In **Psalm 131:2**, David says, **“Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.”**

Our lives are a continuing experience of weaning as God removes our earthly desires, taking away the things that we thought were needful and replacing them with better blessings which we didn’t know existed before. Looking back over my life, I remember many things that I thought I needed which were removed by God and replaced with much more fulfilling blessings. I don’t even miss those things that I thought were so important. Drawing close to my Provider is much more fulfilling than the temporal things that He can provide. I find as I become older that the focus of my life is not so much on earthly pleasures, but more in anticipation of the life to come. It is as if my heart is being pulled away from this world, and with eager anticipation, I look forward to seeing my Saviour.

Although growing older brings with it certain physical infirmities, it is not something to be dreaded. Actually, for the Christian, it is to be embraced as part of our spiritual maturation. Looking back over my life, I can see what a difference He made in the life of a rebellious, prideful, wounded child as He used life experiences to make me more into His image. **II Corinthians 4:16** says, **“...though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”** In the Liberty Bible Commentary, Daniel Mitchell comments on that verse, *“The physical body is...through affliction and suffering... utterly [wearing] out. Yet, the believer can rejoice that he has a life within that is increasing in vitality with every passing day.”* As we experience more of life and God reveals Himself to us, we become stronger spiritually. Our faith grows, we are more capable of fighting temptation, and we become more like our Saviour.

So, rejoice in the increasing strength that growing old brings. Ponder that.



Mrs. Connie Peters has two children and resides in Princeton, NC. She serves as an instructor at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.

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