

Principles of Spiritual Growth:

The Principle of Time


November 6, 2011

Text: Philippians 3:12-16

Applying the Bible to Everyday Life



Precepts are...



⌘...biblical
commands or
directives that are
given as rules of
action or conduct.

Principles are...

⌘...biblical commands or directives from which *other truths* must be drawn in order to be applied to our lives.

The Time Principle



God is at work in the life of every believer, His goal is to conform us the image of Christ, and it is a process that lasts a lifetime.

The goal of the...



⌘...Christian life is to become in practice what we are in principle...to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

The Christian...



⌘...life is a journey
and not a
destination. It is a
growth process that
takes time.

The Time Principle...

⌘ ...tells us that:

⌘ Spiritual Growth is a *process*

⌘ Spiritual Growth is not focused on the *past*

⌘ Spiritual Growth happens in the *present*

⌘ Spiritual Growth is focused on God's *purpose*

The Time Principle...



⌘...tells us that
spiritual growth is a
process. (Phil. 3:12)

Philippians 3:12a



⌘ *Not that I have
already obtained it
or have already
become perfect...*

Philippians 3:13a



⌘ *Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet...*

Reality

⌘ You need to be honest with yourself

⌘ You and those around you are works in *process*

Sydney J. Harris

⌘ **Honesty** consists of the unwillingness to lie to others; **maturity**, which is equally hard to attain, consists of the unwillingness to lie to oneself.

Philippians 1:6



⌘ *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it* until the day of Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:10



⌘ For *we are His workmanship*, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

The Time Principle...



⌘...tells us that
spiritual growth is
not focused on the
past. (Phil. 3:13)

Philippians 3:13b



⌘ ***Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: **forgetting** what lies behind...***

Face it...



⌘...in this life, things don't always go the way we want them to. We make mistakes.

James Long



⌘ ...One reason God created time was so there would be a place to bury the failures of the past.

Jeremiah 18:1-4

⌘ The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD saying, “Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will announce My words to you.”

Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make.

Jeremiah 18:5-8

⌘ ⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, ⁶ “Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter *does?*” declares the LORD.

“Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy *it*; ⁸ if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it.

How to Forget


⌘ You must not allow the things of the past, good or bad, to overshadow the things of the present

Say to yourself...



⌘ ...I have made
mistakes in the
past...I admit them

Say to yourself...



⌘ ...the **mistakes /**
made have
consequences
...I accept them

Say to yourself...



⌘...the

consequences of
my mistakes teach

lessons... *I will*

learn them

Forget the Past



⌘ The lessons that
I learn from my
consequences,
*...I will apply
them*

The Time Principle...



⌘...tells us that
spiritual growth
happens in the
present. (Phil. 3:13b)

Philippians 3:13b



⌘ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; ***but one thing I do:***

The Time Principle...



⌘...tells us that
spiritual growth is
not focused on
God's purpose.
(Phil. 3:13)

Philippians 3:12

⌘ *Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.*



Philippians 3:13



⌘ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and **reaching forward to what lies ahead,**

Philippians 3:14



⌘ “I press on toward
the goal for the prize
of the upward call of
God in Christ
Jesus.”

Philippians 3:15-16



⌘ Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by that same *standard to which we have attained*.