

The List

Pt. 3 - The List is Life

Opening example - Schindler's List (The list is life.)

Proverbs 13:12, Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

· The difference between your hopes deferred and your longing fulfilled is often the list you make and live by.

Note - God keeps lists.

Example - The ten commandments. The Lamb's book of life.

Note - God's lists reveal He is a goal setter.

Hebrews 12:2, We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith. He saw the joy ahead of him, so he endured death on the cross and ignored the disgrace it brought him. Then he received the highest position in heaven, the one next to the throne of God.

Note - What is the joy that your God-given goals have set before you? A healthy body? A debt-free life? A close-knit family? A life-giving ministry?

What is the cross between you and your goal?
Diet & exercise? Budgeting & saving? Discipline & family time? Preparation & prayer?
Commit to these crosses for the joy set before you!

Why Lists Are So Important

1 Lists help establish priorities

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Matthew 6:33, But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Example - Going to the grocery store without a list.

Note - 10 top things to achieve in 2022. Break that down in quarterly goals.

Believers are achievers!

James 2:17, So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

2. Lists serve as a measure of accountability.

Habakuk 2:2, Then the LORD told me: "I will give you my message in the form of a vision. Write it clearly enough to be read at a glance."

Proverbs 29:18, When there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but the one who keeps the law, blessed is he!

Note - The list becomes the law we live by.

3. Lists motivate progress.

Proverbs 17:24, An intelligent person aims at wise action, but a fool starts off in many directions.

Note - Lists provide focus, clarity and even contribute to peace of mind.

Example - Thinking of things in prayer or before bed.

Luke 14:28, Which of you, wishing to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost to see if he has the resources to complete it?

Example - Our house plans.

4. List generate lists.

Note - How do you eat an elephant?

Psalm 37:23, The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.

Note - Our quarterly goals should be broken down into actionable steps month-by-month, week-by-week and day-by-day.

5. Lists demonstrate accomplishment.

Note - The parable of the steward demonstrates God has expectations for our accomplishments.

Matthew 25:21, "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

Matthew 25:29, "'throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

· What we do with the list results in celebration or separation.

Note - Don't treat the omnipotent as optional, don't treat the mandate as meaningless, don't treat the commission with contempt - the list is life!

Example - Florence Chadwick, July 4, 1952 set out to swim the channel from the Catalina Island to the California Coast. (Already swam the English Channel.) Gave up 1 mile from shore, not because of cold, fatigue or sharks - because of fog! She couldn't see her goal.

