# The Principle Guided Life
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**I. Intro**

-The bible knowledge test: many people have considerable bible knowledge but sadly, not many have put the facts together to be able to live life successfully as a Christian.

-Principles are ***patterns*** *of thinking* that form the picture for how we live much like pixels of light on a screen form the picture. Putting the facts we know about God together into meaningful principles or patterns is our life long challenge.

-In principle, living the Christian faith is not that complicated. History is full of examples of making it all about the details.

-The complexity of life and individuality demands attention to principle for direction. There are not enough rules in the world to account for all the issues of life.

-Remarkably, it is attention to principle, not rules, that brings unity. God brings order out of our individuality and creativity through unchanging biblical principles.

**II. An example from my own personal principles**

**A. Live in light of the world to come- David**

-Life is defined by faith and focus not circumstances

-Invest in the eternal and press every advantage for the Kingdom

-Faithfulness is the goal. Fruitfulness is in the Lord's hands

-Plant seeds for the Kingdom and wait for God to cause growth- it is His kingdom that is coming.

-Keep it as simple as possible in this world, the next one is far better.

**B. Ministry is a privilege- Paul**

-Always live with integrity- the strength to live openly.

-We earn the right to make a difference but we never deserve it. (just like grace that is undeserved but conditional- "God resists the proud but grace to the humble")

-Always be a student

-Our effectiveness improves with seasoning

-Service is actually a way to take pleasure in what God is doing.

**C. Transformed thinking leads to transformed living- Rom 8 and Rom 12**

-Maturity takes lots of thinking time not just lots of experiences and aging

-Growth begins with new ways of thinking not just how many facts you know

-Growth always requires doing what you learn so that facts become principles

**D. God has chosen people to accomplish His purposes- strange but true**

-People are the best investment

-I must be willing to be an instrument

-Never presume whom God may choose to use

-Family and gov't are significant instruments of God

**E. Handling our mission to the world which actively opposes God's rule requires mature love**

**-**God's kingdom came near through Jesus but Jesus did not overthrow this world's systems. The kingdom came like the wind not like an army

-God's love for the world explains His desire for ***us*** to offer His kingdom as a gift even though He could have taken His rightful place as King.

-The fact that we are committed to the King who allows His rule to be actively opposed makes us a target of evil. Therefore, we must love the world as God does to minister to it

**III. Conclusion: Tools to develop your own principles:**

1. Generate thoughts- meditation, prayer, analysis
2. Test your thoughts- discussion and sharpening with good thinkers
3. Test your principles in the fire of life- be willing to live by what you conclude, let it become your way of thinking

**My personal mission statement: to serve as a stimulus for God's transforming work by holding to and promoting clear biblical thinking and a servant-leader lifestyle.**