

Inward Purifying Principles (Short Version)

1. We read how the Bible describes God, how to respond to God, and agree to progress in such ways.
2. We rely upon truth, humility, love, and peace.
3. We seek to grow experiences of God's character within our own thoughts, feelings, and actions each day.
4. We examine ourselves for growth in God's character while guarding against fear, resentment, and idolatry.
5. We read the Bible to learn what it means about Good and evil. We see how we can grow with God's good.
6. We confess evil we have done and pray for guidance to grow good within our hearts, minds, and actions.
7. We learn to sense God's good, righteousness, and grace as we put it into practicing.
8. We Seek Justice and impartiality in doing Good. We guard against preferences, entitlements, and bias.
9. We correct harm done inwardly and outwardly. We seek to restore our wrongs with humble sincerity and love.
10. We seek experiences in mercy, forgiveness, peace, kindness, gentleness, and compassion both within us and around us each day.
11. We review and reflect upon our participation with God's character each day to evaluate our progress.
12. We teach others these principles through our own experience, demonstration, and sharing.

Inward Purifying Principles (Long Version)

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

1. We each read the Bible to learn from the Bible. We practice training our minds to define and think of God as the Bible describes God. Getting information from the primary source limits distortion of facts; however we still need to practice critical thinking skills and guard against our own deceptive and misleading bias. We humble ourselves to do God's will each day.
2. We evaluate ourselves daily to see we speak and think truthfully. We set our minds on how we can grow in love and peace inwardly and outwardly.
3. We improve our personal relationship with God through being more aligned with God's character. We make God's character personal and incorporate it within our hearts and minds. We progress in humility to serve more as Jesus did. Our goals increasingly align with God's love, truth, sincerity, and peace. We set specific goals with measurable objectives and review them regularly to ensure growth.
4. We seek God's help to reduce fear and build faith, release resentment and grow forgiveness, and end idolatry with worshiping God first and foremost. We apply methods to examine how we are progressing in God's good.
5. We read many verses in the Bible about 'good' and 'evil' to better understand the patterns and define them more clearly as the Bible defines them. We then seek to align our thoughts, attitudes, and actions to better fit the Bible's description of good.
6. We get honest with another person about the evil we have done. We come clean with everything. We share the effects of our participation with evil regarding our hearts, minds, bodies, and relationships. We learn how it affects truth, love, compassion, humility, peace, patience, mercy, & forgiveness.
7. As we grow our understanding with God's good we incorporate that understanding into all of our activities. We collaborate with others our

growing process and its results. We share such experiences with our hearts, minds, efforts, and souls.

8. God is impartial, but we are partial. We all have preferences, wants, personal bias, and desires that often interfere with God's truth and Goodness. We humble ourselves as students to remain learners of God. We teach others as we learn and we can only teach from what we know.
9. As we make right our wrongs we can experience a deeper sense of humility and doing good. Humility to do good can open doors for much spiritual growth. We ought to consider how our actions can affect spiritual unity. We examine how our actions affects everyone as a whole. Some wrongs we have done to others may not be easily be corrected. We may cover such wrongs through our increasing development and practice with God's good toward others.
10. We seek growth in mercy, forgiveness, and compassion keeping such goals within our minds. We realize we are all connected as one spiritual body. We see how we can affect each other and seek God's Good for each other. We can learn how our doing God's good toward others does God's good toward ourselves.
11. We see how patience and peace is good and spiritually beneficial. We learn how rushing, racing, and fear of missing out can be harmful. We practice patience with peace to increase our spiritual awareness of the here and now.
12. We use our spiritual experiences with God's Goodness to help others. We share our own personal experience of confession, repentance, corrective action, restitution, thought adjustments, improved spiritual awareness, doing what the Bible says, and the results of such actions. We demonstrate our improvements of love and peace over time through our attitudes and actions. We learn how our demonstration of God's good can be the the most powerful influence of hope and inspiration.

How the Bible describes God (NKJV)

Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent.

Deuteronomy 10:17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

1 John 4:16 God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

Psalms 86:5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

Psalms 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

Daniel 9:9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace

1 John 4:6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Romans 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.

James 5:11 that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

Psalms 73:26 God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Joel 2:13 He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Our Process

Each of us come into this experience with different mindsets and beliefs about God. Although there may be similarities, there are differences. Growing toward something we cannot see is a highly complicated task. We cannot see God, yet we can sense God. Few have learned how to use such senses. Few will seek to explore such complexity. This process will be made simple in principles to understand, but difficult to continuously put into action. Delays and distractions come in many forms and ways. We will all face resistance. The struggle will always lie within acceptance and choices to do it.

Progress toward perfection

Being perfect is simply to give our all to God. This will not be done by anyone on a continuous basis. We will all experience doubt, fear, anger, impatience, and resentment. Because it shapes us inwardly it can be inwardly challenging and we may want to take a break. Rest is part of being with God, but as we rest we ought to stay with God. Taking a break to return to self-indulgence can create spiritual damage. Progress is to do one thing new with God we are not doing now or improving something we are doing. It's that simple.

Live by principles

Once we have decided to give ourselves over to God's principles we will then be ready to take action. We are no longer in charge. God becomes our leader and we have chosen to obey. Growth with God is to be valued more than our personal comforts. We are to make time for God each day in our learning, thinking, hearts, attitude, words, and actions. Instead of thinking about how we are disobedient we think how we can improve in obedience. Being a more loving person with deeper truth and sincerity is a benefit to everyone.

Peace and patience involves slowing down in our heart, mind, and actions. Sincere love, mercy, and compassion teaches us to relate with others empathetically and help others to grow in a Godly direction. Truth and justice involves impartiality and objectivity. We will need to learn to live in honesty and fairness. Forgiveness saves us from anger, resentment, wrath, tension, and stress from grudges and hate toward others. These principles are all intangible experiences we learn through trial, error, reflection, and collaboration.

Ensure our growth

Developing anything usually requires a plan. Since we all are different, we each will need to choose our specific plan. Some of us may be strong in truth and weak in mercy while others may be strong in compassion and weak in justice/impartiality. Winging it doesn't work. We can all get inspired and do well for a time, but that time comes to an end and we return back to how we used to be before the inspiration.

Having a supportive environment with groups, messages, studies, new rituals, and accountability partners or mentors can make a big difference in staying the course. Becoming invested with a group that is focused upon the same goal is a proven benefit.

Creating goals with objectives and a schedule when to do it is part of the journey to help us stay accountable. With such tools we can more easily measure our efforts and actions. Within each of us exists tempting thought messages that can lead us away from our goals. We will all face stumbling blocks as we continue with God.

Stumbling blocks

Fear, resentment, self-seeking (pride, vanity, envy, lust, etc.), dishonesty, can occupy space within our hearts and minds that block our connection with God. Such stumbling blocks, although problematic, can be brief if we turn our hearts and minds to think and sense God. We must humble ourselves, confess the struggle, and seek God's good for healing and correction.

Humility, willingness, honesty, diligence, and courage will be needed to turn from evil and seek God's good grace. Perseverance and endurance will be necessary to seek the patience and peace of God and let it work within our minds and hearts. Imagine a rock being thrown into still water and waiting for the ripples to go away. They do not go away immediately, but they settle and soon stop. The ripples from the evil within us can take some time to diminish as peace begins its work. Our being still and waiting upon God ceases the affects of evil having its way with us.

Letting God

To let anything work we will need to give it a chance. Who goes to a gym for 5 minutes expecting immediate results. Just as it takes time for effects of evil to develop it often takes time for the effects of good to grow. To let God work in our lives we must utilize God's ways. To the extent that we give ourselves over to God may be to the extent that we experience spiritual transformation. It's good to know that God always commands actions that leads to love and peace, even if immediate action is uncomfortable.

Transformation can hurt

Letting go of idolatry can be mentally challenging. Our minds are well trained to act upon what we know and have experienced. Our bodies move toward our current developed and practiced habits. We can do many things without much concentration. Pursuing a new way of doing things requires mental resistance and endurance. Without such concentrated effort we will have little chance to make permanent change.

Transformation involves God and our choices to participate with God. God's grace is freely available, but we need to utilize it within our hearts, minds, attitudes, and actions. How we think about ourselves, others, or anything affects our attitude, heart, and body.

Philippians 4:8 NKJV "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

We may not feel God's love and peace in the beginning. We may get impatience. We may get tired. We may learn things about ourselves we used to block out. Many of us can begin the process with a lot of resentment, hurt, and fear. This happens, but like the ripples in the water, if we stay the course of corrective action with God's good we can be healed. Peace can develop.

2 Corinthians 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Not perfectly, but progressively, little by little each day.