

Ten Things God Wants in Your Life

Romans 8:31-39

Babies, babies—how wonderful to see them come into the world, and they fill our lives with such love, joy and hope. When God, your Father, created you, He created you with love. God said in Jer. 29:11, ‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. For those we love, we want all the best things: schools, opportunities, good health, and prosperity. God wants good things for you too!

1. God wants you to be saved (1 Tim. 2:3-4).

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2. God wants you to come to know the truth and to be free (John 8:31-32).

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

3. God wants you to have the privilege of prayer (Matt. 7:7-11).

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!”

4. God wants you to live sensibly, righteously, and godly in this present age (Tit. 2:11-14).

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

5. God wants you to repent rather than perish (2 Peter. 3:9).

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Through the grace of God and the gift of repentance, we have the wonderful opportunity to erase the past and start again fresh. The opportunity to repent is a gift from God. I can change and become the person I want to be—one that pleases God and pleases me and blesses everyone around me.

6. God wants you to have an abundant life (John 10:10).

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.”

Everybody wants to be happy, but “the abundant life” is far greater than merely being happy. It has real, inner joy, real life. It is a complete life, utter life, life “to the full.” Christianity is a lifestyle that does not lack any worthy thing that we need.

James 1:17 says, “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”

7. God wants you to know how much He loves us (John 3:16; Rom. 8:32, 37-39).

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

8. God wants you to find peace (Phil. 4:6-9).

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

9. God wants you to have hope (Rom. 5:1-5).

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

10. God wants you to come home with Him forever (John 14:1-3).

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.”

We have a God who we can call “Father.” Most of the gods of ancient times were gods to be feared, gods to be placated. Sacrifices were made to atone for transgressions. Our God is our “Father,” who knows how to give good gifts to His children, who loves and wants to bless His children. But the greatest sacrifice we have is the One He gave for us—for our souls. Moses wrote in Deut. 4:5-7, “See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. So keep and do *them*, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him? Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?” The Lord God is so good to us—how shall we not respond to Him with love and devotion?

The most important thing we can do in response to God is to love Him with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength. One who loves God will act upon the love by believing in Christ (John 3:16), repenting of every sin (Acts 2:38), confessing the name of Jesus (Matt. 10:32-33), and by being baptized (immersed) in water for the forgiveness of sins. When a person is baptized, the Lord washes away his sins (Acts 22:16), adds him to His church (Acts 2:47), counts him as His child (Gal. 3:26-27), and saves him (1 Pet. 3:21).

God wants you to live with Him forever. The way to live in His house forever is to come into His family in this life. The church is God’s family (1 Tim. 3:15). As His child, you will want to be with other members of God’s family, by attending church regularly. God has designed the church to meet your spiritual needs and to provide the loving family you desire.

God’s arms are open wide longing for you to come home to Him and to the family He has on the earth. Won’t you come to Him, serve Him and live with Him?

If you are looking for a close, loving, personal relationship with God, why not visit one of the churches of Christ near you? They are loving brothers and sisters who want to help you go to heaven.

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