

A FOCUSED LIFE
LIFE GOALS #4
Pastor Dennis Clanton
Woodland Church
Sunday, January 24, 2021

“It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—“he disappeared, because God took him.” For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God. And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.” (Hebrews 11:5–6, NLT)

“When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah. After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in close fellowship with God for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters. Enoch lived 365 years, walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.” (Genesis 5:21–24, NLT)

1. Live My Life Focused on Pleasing God.

“... He was known as a person who pleased God.” (Hebrews 11:5, NLT)

“It is a staggering thought.” -Frederick Buechner

2. The Core of My Life is Jesus Christ.

“I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).” (John 10:10, AMP)

“I hate tennis. I hate it with a dark, secret passion and always have. ... I hate tennis, hate it with all my heart, and still I keep playing, keep hitting all morning and all afternoon, because I have no choice. No matter how much I want to stop, I don't. I keep begging myself to stop, and still I keep playing, and this gap, this contradiction between what I want to do and what I actually do, feels like the core of my life.” -Andre Agassi

3. A Focused Life Reduces Anxiety.

“Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”
(Matthew 6:21, NLT)

“I will be your God throughout your lifetime— until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you.” (Isaiah 46:4, NLT)

4. A Focused Life is My Story.

“For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 1:9, NLT)

5. A Focused Life Says Yes to God’s Purpose for My Life.

“You will invest your life in something, or you will throw it away on nothing.” -Haddon Robinson

“Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors” (Acts 13:36, NIV)

“The empty-headed treat life as a plaything; the perceptive grasp its meaning and make a go of it.” (Proverbs 15:21, Message)

“In accomplishing anything definite a man renounces everything else.”
-George Santayana

“I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.” (John 17:4, NLT)

GROWTHWORK

1. Be reconciled to God.

“For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:19, NLT)

2. Live in the presence of God.

“You also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.” (Romans 6:9-11, NLT)

3. Be willing to grow.

“If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.” (1 John 1:8-10, NLT)

4. Be willing to belong.

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42, NLT)

“The statistical evidence is clear: young people who stick with Jesus and the church are far more likely to be able to say, “I know who God has created me to be and how my purpose fits with his plans for the world.”

-David Kinnaman & Mark Matlock, Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon