

LIVE. LOVE. PRAY.
Pastor Dennis Clanton
Woodland Church
Sunday, June 23, 2019

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,” (2 Corinthians 10:3–5, NKJV)

“But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.” (John 20:31, NLT)

1. LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE IN CHRIST.

“Knowledge makes people arrogant, but love builds them up. Those who think they know something still have a lot to learn. But if they love God, they are known by God.” (1 Corinthians 8:1–3, GW)

“No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!”
(1 John 4:12, Message)

A. Build a biblical foundation.

“But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.” (1 Corinthians 8:3, ESV)

B. Protect their hearts.

“You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:36–39, NLT)

2. **PRACTICE PRAYERFUL THINKING.**

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.”
(Philippians 4:6–9, NLT)

A. Enjoy your children.

“Don’t you see that children are GOD’s best gift? the fruit of the womb his generous legacy? Like a warrior’s fistful of arrows are the children of a vigorous youth. Oh, how blessed are you parents, with your quivers full of children! Your enemies don’t stand a chance against you; you’ll sweep them right off your doorstep.” (Psalm 127:3–5, The Message)

B. Make memories.

“But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren.”
(Deuteronomy 4:9, NLT)

C. Learn and share all you can.

“Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge.” (Proverbs 18:15, NLT)

“If you have good sense, you will learn all you can,...”
(Proverbs 10:14, CEV)

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6, NKJV)

“Civilizations, like individuals, survive only if they have a goal, an end, a purpose beyond mere living and surviving, something for which to live and survive. A civilization that believes in nothing worthy dying for will surely and ignobly die.” - C. S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*

“One thing I noticed about evangelicals is that they do not read. They do not read the Bible, they do not read the great Christian thinkers, they have never heard of Aquinas. If they are Presbyterian, they’ve never read the founders of Presbyterianism. I do not understand that. As a Jew, that’s confusing to me. The commandment of study is so deep in Judaism that we immerse ourselves in study. God gave us a brain; aren’t we to use it in His service? When I walk into an Evangelical Christian’s home and see a total of 30 books, most of them best sellers, I do not understand. I have bookcases of Christian books, and I am a Jew. Why do I have more Christian books than 98 percent of the Christians in America? That is so bizarre to me.” - Dennis Prager

3. **RECOGNIZE YOUR GIFTEDNESS AND DO GOOD BY FAITH.**

“But Moses pleaded with the LORD, “O Lord, I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.”” (Exodus 4:10, NLT)

“Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.” (Galatians 6:10, NLT)

GROWTHWORK

“So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.” (2 Thessalonians 1:11, NLT)

1. COMMIT TO A LIFETIME OF GROWTH.
2. GIVE MORE THAN YOU TAKE.
3. USE YOUR THREE Ts TO DO GOOD.

“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love.” (1 Corinthians 16:13–14, NLT)