

Simply Jesus

By Donna Pyle

Life in the 21st Century is a techno-driven, chaotic race that blurs by at a lightning pace. In the midst of the frenzy, how do we live a balanced, simple, abundant life for God?

Simply Comfort

Life wears us out at times, doesn't it? When we struggle with sin, when family members aren't saved, when bills go unpaid, when work exhausts, when our health fails, when our loved ones hurt, when the future appears bleak or when a good friend leaves, we can get discouraged. Because it steals our happiness, peace, contentment and vitality, discouragement is a thief. It is blind to the blessings of yesterday, indifferent to the opportunities of today, and insecure regarding strength for tomorrow. If we have nothing to rely on, or we forget our blessings and look to our circumstances, then discouragement begins to take hold. What does **John 14:26** tell us?

What name is given to God in **2 Corinthians 1:3**? Through His Word we have the blessed assurance that our heavenly Father is above all, beyond all, and without fail compassionate. He loves us with an everlasting love. His comfort and compassion flow to us and through us to others.

Simply Peace

Christians endure Satan's attacks as he manipulates our mass-media age to divide, cause conflict, and corrupt the Church. He stealthily and methodically moves against churches, individuals, and especially spiritual leaders. The very same technology that we consider essential also provides the biggest distractions to spending meaningful time in God's Word and prayer. The Gospel of peace that Christ provides does not come from the world. He provides us with *His* peace. We can stand firm in His peace, even in hand-to-hand combat, because we know we stand on the battle's winning side. What does peace provide in **Deuteronomy 20:4** and **Romans 8:31**? Note how God's peace forms a beautiful contrast to the world's raging conflict. (See **Isaiah 9:6**; **Isaiah 26:3**; **Philippians 4:7**.)

When we abide in Him, He promises to give us His peace. It's as simple as that.

Simply Wisdom

Believers enduring the difficulties of everyday life do not simply need more knowledge; rather, they need spiritual insight in applying God's wisdom to any situation.

Godly wisdom is frequently rooted in a right attitude toward God. (See **Psalm 111:10** and **Job 28:28**). In this context, the command to seek wisdom does not entail a



one-time action but rather something to be done continually; we are to keep praying. A vibrant, active

prayer life affords us the wisdom to cull unnecessary tasks to simplify and focus our energies. What do these verses say about how those who seek the wisdom of the Triune God: **Matthew 7:7–8**; **John 14:13–14**; and **Luke 11:13**?

Why do some of us have difficulty asking for wisdom? God's Word alleviates our fear to ask for wisdom by reassuring us that it *will* be given to those who ask — a spiritual wisdom that not only helps us make wise choices and strengthen perseverance, but also gives us the ability to act and react with grace and wisdom.

Simply Worship

Our culture goes to great lengths to worship money, position, lifestyle, or even self, but the Lord Almighty created us with the need and desire to worship Him. We worship because of who HE is and in response to what HE has done in our lives. How did Jesus explain worship to a Samaritan woman in **John 4:23**? What does that clarify?

To worship in spirit means to draw near to God with an undivided heart. To worship God in truth calls us to worship the Triune God not as we think Him to be, not as we hope Him to be, not as we'd like Him to be, but as He is. See **Matthew 28:17** and **Psalms 96:9a**.

C.S. Lewis wrote: "In the process of being worshipped, God communicates His presence to men." God extends the invitation to come and worship. How else does He invite us to come according to **Psalms 145:21** and **Revelation 22:17**? God in His unlimited love for us continues to extend the universal invitation to come and worship Him.

Simply Jesus

Simplifying our lives, especially during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, can be an arduous task that requires honest assessment of how we spend our time, talents, and resources. If we are so busy serving that we do not have time to spend time with God in His Word or in prayer, our to-do list needs to be re-evaluated. Looking through the lens of "simply Jesus" helps us discern what needs to remain and what needs to be deleted.

To live a Christ-centered, effective, significant life for Him, only one thing is needed: Jesus.

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