

HELPFUL HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVING FROM YOUR DAD

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Christ- Centered



Biblical Training

This publication is meant to guide young people as they are growing up and can be a message from their fathers. I gave these hints to each of my children when they were in their early teens.

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1. Stay Close to the Lord Our God

(This keeps you pure, joyful and happy, gives you hope and purpose for life, it provides a place to stand where you can walk upright.)

- always obey the truth you know
- read the New Testament regularly with Proverbs (about 3-5 pages per day)
- pray at least twice daily
- love God with your total being
- learn and memorize the promises and use them
- admit you need help for life, ask God and parents to help you
- regularly share your faith with others as God leads
- be involved in the activities of the church
- attend church regularly
- believe that all things are possible with God
- continually build up treasures in heaven
- accept yourself the way God made you and look for the plan He has for your life
- reverence God; believe He is sovereign and working all things for good in your life
- believe by faith that you are now closely coupled to God so that you are doing what He is doing and what He wants you to do
- trust in God for all things & particularly for direction in life
- believe that God is in control of all circumstances in your life and that He is working all things together for good
- have your total life centered in God and His work so that your very purpose for living is for Him, His Word, His Person, and His work
- have more concern of what God thinks of your actions and thoughts, than what people think
- think in terms of the Scriptures for every aspect of life
- think God's thoughts, remember His ways and thoughts are different from ours
- continuously obey the leading of the Holy Spirit and respond in action using the truth of the Bible

2. Believe in God, Christ and the Word of God at All Costs All Through Life

(God is the only one who can make us successful and His truth is the only way we can have a successful future, on earth and in heaven.)

- hang on to God, Christ and the Bible at all costs for they are the only source of truth and eternal life
- hang on to God even though life gets tough and cruel
- let God plan your life
- believe that God is taking care of you and planning your life -place yourself totally under God's authority
- never, never forsake God, Christ, or the Word of God, regardless of circumstances

3. Stay in Fellowship with All People as Far as it Depends on You

(This is the only way you can feel right - people will avoid you if you don't remain in fellowship.)

- right wrong relationships as soon as possible
- always stay in fellowship with those in authority over you - God, Christ, parents, husband, teachers, bosses, etc.
- stay in fellowship with subordinates and equals - wife, children, friends, and relatives
- stay in fellowship by doing things with God and people
- ask forgiveness of any one you have offended
- do everything you can to stay in fellowship
- be sure to remain in obedience to God so others cannot point their finger at you
- always square away differences between you and others, as far as it depends upon you
- always talk things out
- don't let things go on when they are not right -continually forgive others; 70 x 7 if necessary and don't take revenge, let the authorities do that, God, parents, government, etc.(When you don't forgive, it eats at your heart and conscience and you can become negative, bitter, critical and withdrawn.)
- always maintain a clear conscience

4. Be Grateful and Thankful for Things You Have (Even Though You May Not Have Everything You Need and Want)

(Being grateful makes you humble and with a good spirit.)

- be thankful for family, God and His truth, things that God and parents are doing for you (even though you might not be aware of what they are doing)
- thank God for everything - later when you see what God is doing you will be thankful
- always live with a grateful spirit

5. Build up Trust Through Loyalty and Obedience

(People will not like you nor give you responsibility if you can't be trusted.)

- always do what you know others and those of authority would like or would expect you to do
- never cheat, lie, steal, or slander
- always carry-out your responsibilities - home, school, church, job, as an officer, organization attendant
- not carrying out your responsibilities can produce mental illness and sickness - laziness

6. Remember, If You Want People to Love You, You must Love Them First - It Doesn't Work the Other Way Around

(Love is what we all want and it is built upon love shown by us - it acts in mercy and grace.)

- in groups of people, go up to people and meet them and be friendly - don't expect them to come to you - they probably won't -show grace and mercy toward people
- show tolerance toward people - give them allowance to make a few mistakes without jumping on them - people aren't perfect, don't expect them to be - such as parents, husband, wife, children, friends, etc.
- learn to be humble and don't let pride or selfishness from showing your love to those who

should and do mean the most to you

7. Always Obey and Please Those in Authority over You and Willingly

(Obeying authorities keeps us from sinning and it is God's way to teach, protect and use us, and it allows us to learn much more and faster; it is the only way we can be successful and have a fulfilled and happy life. God wants us to obey all authority. But obeying Him is priority over obeying others if they want us to disobey God's Word, particularly in serious matters.)

- obey God, Christ, Bible, Parents, husbands, teachers, governments, and bosses
- do everything they ask you and try to please them in all things
- live everywhere under authority -in life circumstances, think in terms of obedience to authority, rather than in rationalism or deciding right and wrong, except when it causes us to disobey God
- your life always changes for the better when you place yourself under authority
- have a reverent spirit
- discern what God and parents want you to do, then go and do it -always maintain a clear conscience

8. Yield All Your Rights to God and Those in Authority over You

(Giving of your rights or not insisting upon them in order to make others happy and successful particularly for the sake of Christ and the Gospel is the secret to happiness and successful living; it makes people like you and gives you a purpose for life.)

- yielding your rights means not to insist on your own way to authorities and to equals; it means to help others get what they want and need at the expense of your time and perhaps desires, if necessary
- to yield rights, means to present yourself in-total to the authorities over you to do what they want wherever you are - these authorities include God, parents, teachers, government, etc.
- in terms of Christ, it means to live your life for the sake of Christ, the Gospel, and the Word of God
- it means to live your life as a love servant to help others be successful in life, particularly with God and Christ, You may need to give up what you may want to do to accomplish this. Live your life therefore to build up treasures in heaven

9. Give Authorities over You and Your Friends the Privilege to Make a Few Mistakes Without Your Open Reproof of Them or Being Critical of Them

(It is important to maintain friendships and fellowships. No one is perfect, so don't expect them to be. Remember attitudes are most important - look to the attitude of people.)

- allow people to make mistakes without your jumping all over them - have tolerance for people
- rather than criticize, find positive solutions to situations
 - build relationships - don't tear them down, or destroy them because those dearest to you make a few mistakes or act imperfectly according to your thinking
- have a quiet spirit - particularly wives for husbands, children for parents, employees for bosses, etc.

10. Always Act in Positive Ways Toward People and in Situations

(People like to be around positive people and they will avoid you if you are negative and constantly critical.)

Helpful Hints for Successful Living from Your Dad

- select words and expressions to speak positively
- avoid criticizing others whenever possible (sometimes in serious matters it may be necessary)
- avoid cutting people down or acting negative
- be polite and courteous to all people at all times whether you like them or not
- avoid acting in arrogance, with pride, grumbling or in unbecoming manner
- rather than complain, offer positive suggestions and alternatives - avoid criticizing unless the matters are most serious, can offer alternative and positive suggestions

11. Have and Maintain High Standards

(This makes you feel good inside and like yourself - it makes you feel like your walking up-right.)

- avoid slang and foul language
- use good English, not coarse language
- have high integrity, be honest and tell truth
- don't smoke, and don't drink alcoholic beverages (limited red wine may be okay when older)
- select friends, boy friends, girl friends, who also keep high standards
- only date Christians
- use Bible for all standards of life and conduct
- don't marry anyone less than you really want; let God select your partner

12. Continuously Build-up Good Qualities in Your Life - Avoid Bad Qualities

(Good qualities show good character - people like to be around people of good character.)

Build up These Qualities

- love	- discretion	- dependability	- gentleness
- loyalty	- faith	- joyful	- tolerance
- trustworthy	- helpfulness	- responsibility	- gratefulness
- alertness	- patience	- truthful	- virtue
- self-control	- humble	- determination	- thriftiness -
- kindness	- hope	- endurance	
- flexibility	- purity	- punctuality	

13. Always Have Definite Positive Goals Set Before You, and Work Toward Them

(You are happiest when you are working toward something, or trying to accomplish something. Without definite goals, life loses its meaning and your life tends to drift without your being anything worth while. Without goals, life can slip you by, and you'll be nothing and have nothing.)

- establish definite goals for each part of your life and keep them constantly before you, review and up-date them often

Set Goals in These Areas

- walking with God; - work of God	- school work/education
- Bible Study; become proficient in the Word	- hobby
- family relationships	- exercise and sports
- job/avocation	- selecting a date and/or spouse

14. Select One or Two Things to Be Very Good at or Very Proficient In; But Choose Those That Build Around God, His Word, and the Christian Life

(People like to be around people of exceptional talent and capability.)

Examples

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- singing- work of God- musical instrument- flying- sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- teaching Bible- family- working with kids- walking with God- become expert in Bible and God's ways
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To keep up and be good, one must regularly practice or be constantly involved using the talent.

15. Recognize That Trials, Problems and Testings in Life, Are Used by God to Train You and Make You Mature

(This is the "only" way we can grow and mature - there is no other way -so don't knock it or walk away from it.)

- treat irritations, trials, and testings, that God is using them to give us new and more mature spiritual qualities. Be alert with faith to use God's truth in our life situations and look for what God is trying to teach us or train us for. God puts us in particular families to help train us for his purposes - so understand this and don't knock it.
- don't turn away from God, because you think God has abandoned you because of testings and trials. Just the opposite is true, he brings you trials because He loves you.
- look for what God wants to create in you due to irritations in life.

16. Remember When We Violate God's Principles and Truth (Bible), That Life Will Reproof Us and Pay Us Back, and We Will Suffer Because of It.

(When we find problems (spiritual) in our life it is because we have disobeyed God and His spiritual laws reprove us, just like the law of gravity would do if we should jump off a cliff.)

- when we do not forgive we can become bitter
- when we don't trust God to care for us we worry
- when we don't believe God is planning our lives for us when get into difficulty, we become discouraged
- when we live immorally, we shut the good things out of our lives
- when we don't live for others, we become self-centered
- when we don't carry out our responsibilities, we withdraw from people and they from us
- if we become centered in worldly things we miss God's plan for our lives
- when we don't do things God's way and trust him, we build up negative qualities in our lives

17. Keep Your Body in Good Physical Condition So Far as it Depends on You

(When your body is kept well exercised and in good shape, you feel much better and you want to do more things - you also look better.)

- exercise regularly
- it is a good idea to get involved in a sport that you participate in weekly

examples

- handball - jogging	- tennis - calisthenics; work outs	- swimming - much walking
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18. Be Involved in Activities Where Friends Can Be Met and Fellowshiped With

(You need to do things with people to build friendships and you must go where they are to meet them. Everyone needs friends to be happy.)

- join young peoples groups at church
- sporting activities
- choose friends who are Christians and who want to go with God. Do not choose friends of the world - they will want to take you away from God. You should build your life around Christ. Unchristian friends want to build their life around the world, - singing groups

19. Live Your Life to Help Make Others Successful, Particularly With God

(Life brings its greatest fulfillments when we can make others successful and help them get ahead, particularly with God and Christ. This allows us to build up treasures in heaven.)

- at church, be more concerned about making others successful than what you are doing for yourself or in what you are participating
- at your job or secular work, do not expect fulfillment from the job itself, but only as you fill the needs of other people around you, and make your boss, project, and customer successful
- have the servants spirit - that is the opposite of a self-centered life. do things for others to make them successful - this is the attitude of the missionary and those who are involved in the work of God
- find the work that God has planned for you and do it.
- do things for others without the need of them doing things for you
- get excited about helping others become successful with God
- treat others as more important than yourself -doing things for others, even at the expense of doing things for yourself and your pleasures, builds up love between people -avoid acting selfishly

20. Do Not Dissipate Your Life in Sin or Worldly Activities

(Don't Hang on to the World)

(When you continue in sin (that is disobedient to God, parents, and authorities over you) and involve yourself in worldly activities - you forfeit your chances to build up reward and treasures in heaven and it does not allow you to fulfill your life now on the earth - and it brings many reproofs for breaking God's spiritual laws. One day you will wake up and find your life was wasted, --you, generally, can't start over!)

- if you live your life for earthly value you will lose it - so don't hang on to earthly values
- don't spend great amounts of time on worldly activities - movies, TV, computer games, ipods, etc. these are designed to use your time and keep you away from great accomplishment and finding a life with God. You can enjoy such as the ballet, fine arts, and occasional organized sports

Helpful Hints for Successful Living from Your Dad

- don't live immorally - mentally or physically
- don't read dirty books or tell dirty jokes
- keep away from pornography
- keep away from all forms of illicit sex (physical) activities

If you live in sexual sin, this leads a life pathway to greater sin and forgetting about God - it is devastating to life, and God cannot use us effectively

- center your life in the wholesome things and things of God
- always choose the best from the good - never what is wrong or bad - separate from all forms of evil and fill your life with positive things and things of God

21. Never Borrow Money for Any Reason If it Is Possible

(When you borrow money, it puts pressure on your life and you lose freedom, those who are your debtors can control or greatly influence your life.)

- always save 10 percent or more of your income and invest it where it can grow or gain interest
- saving money to spend tomorrow is not real savings, it is only postponed expenditures
- save 10 percent that you don't plan to spend for any reason
- always give 10 or more percent of your gross income to God. God greatly blesses you on your proper frame of mind toward him (if you don't give 10 percent, you will probably pay it anyway through bills and repairs, etc.)
- never sign a note to be responsible for another's debt - try not to borrow money for vacations or things that can depreciate - cars, boats, etc. Better to buy used cars, boats, etc.
- always be a good steward to God for everything that God has given you
- try never borrow money from friends or relatives, apart from emergencies

22. Only Date and Marry Christians

(People who are not Christians want to live their life around the world and not around Christ and God and Bible. You can only be happy and have a fulfilled life when having dates and spouses who are Christians.)

- marry and date only Christians
- ask girl friends father for permission to marry before asking your girl friend - this places you under the authority of the father
- it is best if you ask the girl's father for permission to date - particularly on the first date. The parents of the girl can now trust you with their daughter.
- do not be involved in premarital petting or sex - it can seriously effect your future marriage and particularly if you want to marry a Christian who plans to live his life in the service of God.
- maintain high standards for the choice of a life partner and wait for the right person to come along. Don't rush into marriage with the wrong person, -make your choice of a life partner based more upon what the person stands for and what they are doing with their life (particularly with God and Christ) rather than sex and what you are doing together at any particular time

23. Remove All Entangling Alliances in Life That Do Not Allow You to Be Mobile to Serve God

(We must live our life so God can use us in a maximum way - so we should not enter into any partnerships (that God didn't form) that we cannot easily dissolve.)

- do not enter into business partnership with an unbeliever
- do not enter into marriage with an unbeliever (or believer who does not want to live for God or who wants to live close to the world)
- entangling alliances with the world and marriage with unbelievers can greatly restrict your maximum walk and service to God. - Be very careful. The same is true of the worldly or carnal Christian.

24. When Selecting a Marriage Partner, Select One Who Already Is Going with God and Knows Now Where He Is Going

(One cannot change a person after marriage, what the person is now, he will be after marriage, what is wrong with the person before marriage, will remain with the person after marriage.)

- only date and marry Christians
- go with a person at least a year before marriage
- get to know a person very well before marriage, ask many questions and listen very carefully (it is too late after marriage if you end up with the wrong partner)
- the girl must be able to embrace everything about the man without need of change, embarrassment with friends or uncomfortable feelings in any way - the same is true about the guy -the marriage goes where the man is going and not vice-versa - HE is the leader of the home
- select a spouse who is a mature Christian, has a calling from God, and is now going in that direction -the girl must support the direction the man is going (not vice-versa) - she is subordinate to him
- the girl should marry a man with greater spiritual maturity - so he can be the spiritual leader

25. Be Aware That Satan Will Attack You on Every Front If You Begin Walking with God; and He Will Try to Keep You from Finding God and What He Wants You to Do and How He Wants You to Live

(Satan will try to fool you into thinking you are right when you are wrong, he will try to mislead you and keep you away from the life God is offering you.)

You Are Wrong When:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- you talk back to authorities- you disobey authorities- you act selfishly or from self centeredness- you think more of what your friends think of you than what your parents or God thinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- you follow the ways of the world and friends rather than ways and teachings of God and parents- you want a life centered in the world and in a secular life rather than in God and in serving Him
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Be Careful of Satan Walking in the Light Leading You into the Following Activities:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- worrying more about doctrinal points - rather than living a godly life- worrying more about accomplishment and activities rather than looking for the leading of the Holy Spirit and being sure to remain under Christ's Lordship- worrying more about serving God, than, at a higher priority, you are taking care of those whom you love, particularly your own family |
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26: Center Your Life in Response to the Leading of the Holy Spirit Rather than in Mainly Rational Thinking

(When we respond to the leading of God, we have a walk of faith and in expectation of what God is doing with and around us. When we use rational thinking, we tend to or can act independent of God, which is sin.)

- believe that the Holy Spirit is always leading you and arranging circumstances in your life for your good and the good of others -respond to this leading using the Word of God in your thinking
- when you are not aware of special leading, walk by faith and act as if you already have it or as you act, you will soon get it
- remember if you can believe, everything is possible to you from God from His ways

27. Ask God to Continually Bless Your Life in Specific Ways

(If we pay little attention to God, we can soon have a routine hum drum life that doesn't appear to go anywhere and we are not touching and influencing and blessing other people's lives; as a result life loses its meaning.)

Ask God to Bless You in Specific Ways

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- have a good Christian boy or girl friend- have a good Christian marriage partner- improve your work at your secular job | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- improve your marriage- better your walk with God- make your ministry exciting and fruitful |
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- ask God to convict you of your sin so you can avoid it -ask God to take part in your everyday life
- tell God you want much more than an average Christian life

28. Always Remember That Maintaining Fellowship with Your Family, Friends, and God Are Most Important and More Important than Getting What You Want and It Must Be Maintained in Times of Stress

(Our pride, selfish desires, and anger can cause us to prefer more what we want than staying in fellowship with our family, but this is greatly wrong and csn be based on wrong sets of values - it hurts us in the long run.)

- your family is more important than the world and fleshly desires

- always treat your family as they are very important
- if you lose your family - you have great loss and it is not really replaceable with anything else

29. In Christ You Are a New Person and You Should Learn to Live like a New Person

(As Christians we tend to live the way we used to before we became Christians. We should be sure we don't do this - because we cannot reap the good benefits of the Christian life if we do.)

- learn to walk by faith and sacrificial love
- learn to pray and pray often
- read Bible regularly and meditate on its teachings
- look for the leading of the Holy Spirit and respond to this leading
- live by the teachings of the kingdom of God rather than by those of the world
- remember as Christians, we will: (1) be tempted; (2) have trials; and (3) have to make difficult decisions
- follow God and don't succumb to the devil, the flesh, and the world

30. Participate and Cooperate with God to Accomplish His Purposes for Your Life

(God has a general and specific purpose for your life to become the person He intends and to be involved in the ministry He has chosen.)

- do not look at life as a playground, a place of personal achievement or a life time struggle to survive
- look at life as a spiritual conflict between God and Satan, where God wants to use you in ministry for the sake of others
- know that God wants to shape your person to become like the Lord Jesus which means to be in unity with God in your thoughts and actions
- know that God wants to use you in ministry and let Him develop and train you for it
- God's best training is on the job working under His leaders
- look for your training mostly with spiritual leaders rather than from organizations or colleges
- only marry a person who has these same goals and is working toward them
- Be sure to train in Christian-Life Relationship Principles, God's Plan, Prophecy, Spiritual Warfare, and basic Bible Doctrine
- Present yourself daily to God as a living sacrifice and an instrument of righteousness. Stay close to God and under Christ's Lordship