

Lesson 1 -- Keys to Fulfillment: The Biblical Context

Introduction

- A. God created mankind to be fulfilled. Fulfillment has to do with the realization of our potentialities with particular emphasis on our spirituality.
- B. The provision for fulfillment is God Himself. He created us to live in fellowship with Himself and to fulfill His plan. Therefore, fulfillment is inseparably related to walking with God in the daily obedience of faith, love and hope. The basic content of fulfillment is therefore enjoying the Lord as we do His will. (Isaiah 43:7,21; John 15:11; 16:24; 17:13; Rom. 14:17; 15:13; Gal. 5:22; I John 1:4)
- C. The method of fulfillment has to do with the understanding and the implementation of Biblical priorities. One can never aim at fulfillment or happiness and achieve it.
 - 1. Fulfillment is a by-product of living in fellowship with God and doing His will.
 - 2. Therefore, the goal of daily life must be God Himself, His fellowship and His plan.

I. The Biblical Context of the Plan of God.

- A. The statement: the plan of God is to glorify Himself through making Jesus Christ preeminent in all things.
- B. The illustrations:
 - 1. The plan of the Father, Colossians 1:18.
This is the sovereign purpose behind creation, history, the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, the church, etc.
 - 2. The affirmation of the Son, Luke 11:52; John 14:6; 17:1.
The Lord Jesus taught that He was preeminent in all things and was the "key" to life itself.
 - 3. The goal of the Holy Spirit, John 16:13,14.
The purpose in all the work of the Holy Spirit is that Jesus Christ would have the preeminence.
 - 4. The object of angelic worship, Revelation 5:6,11-14.
The angels were created to honor Jesus Christ and are constantly engaged in the adoring contemplation and magnifying of His person and work.
- C. The application:
 - 1. The purpose of our creation and re-creation in Jesus Christ, is to bring glory to God through making Jesus Christ preeminent in all things.

2. The character of our creation illustrates this purpose. "We were created "theo-centric", i.e., God-centered. He was our authority, motivation and goal for all of life.

Summary: The keys to fulfillment are determined by the plan of God.

- A. The plan of the Father must be my plan.
- B. The affirmation of the Son must be my affirmation.
- C. The goal of the Holy Spirit must be my goal.
- D. The object of angelic worship must be my object.

II. The Biblical Context of the Person of God.

A. The statement: God is good and what He does is goodness.

B. The Illustrations:

1. Exodus 33:13-19; 34:6 - the confidence of Moses.
2. Psalm 27:13 - the strength of the Psalmist.
3. Psalm 107:8,15,21,31 - the interpretation of the Psalmist.
4. Jeremiah 31:14 - the prediction of the Prophet.
5. Ephesians 5:9 - the explanation of the Apostle.
6. II Thessalonians 1:11 - the prayer of the Apostle.

C. The Application:

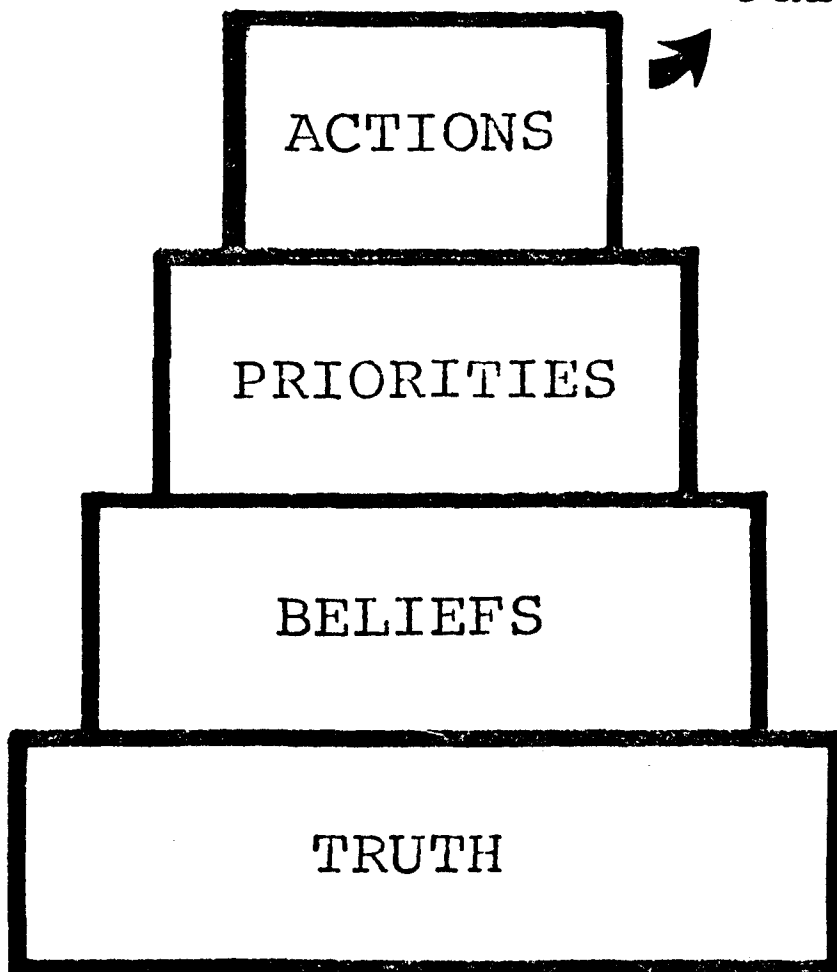
1. One of the most serious barriers to personal fulfillment is the tendency to reject the goodness of God. We too often allow our feelings and circumstances to lead us to the belief that God has cheated us, He has not been fair to us, and He has not kept His Word.
2. It is vitally important that we thoroughly confess our sins of bitterness and the maintaining of a grudge against God.
3. The seriousness of this tendency to reject the goodness of God is seen in its effects of bitterness and coveting.

Summary: The keys to fulfillment are determined by the Person of God.

1. We must confess and reject all tendencies to criticize God and to doubt His goodness.
2. We must affirm the goodness of God and interpret life in this context.

Victor M. Matthews

Our Character
Our Life



ACTIONS

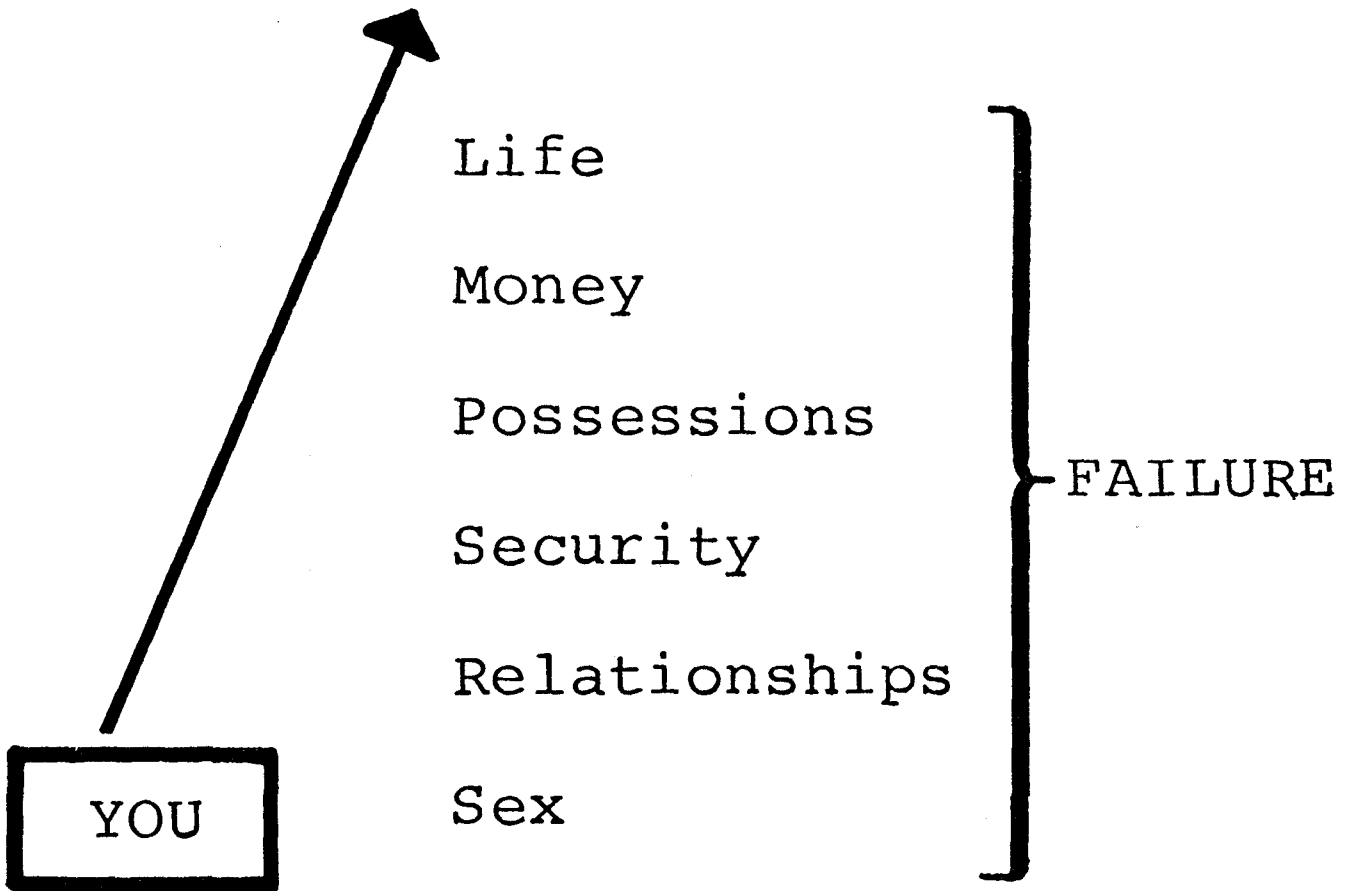
PRIORITIES

BELIEFS

TRUTH

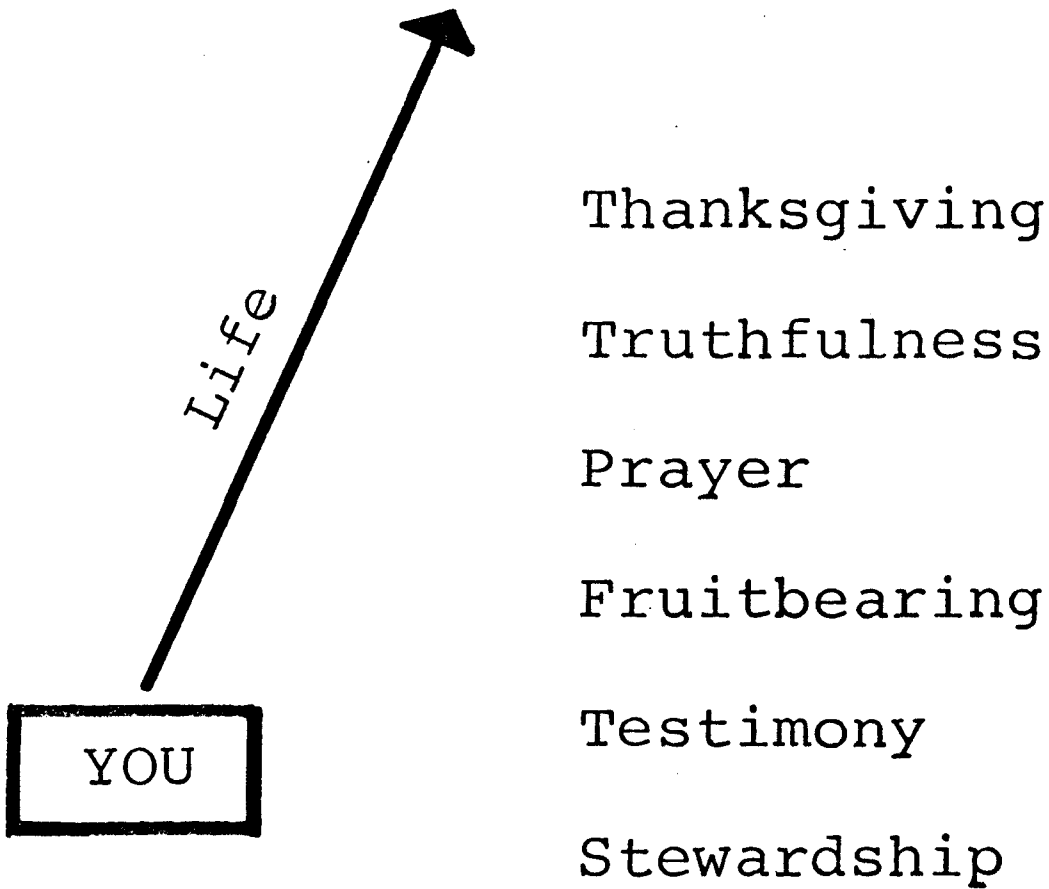
WRONG GOALS

SELF-FULFILLMENT



RIGHT GOAL

GOD AND HIS GLORY



RIGHT GOAL

GOD AND HIS GLORY

