

No. 11 Keep Sowing to the Spirit (Symposium) —Use Bible Principles to Guide Your Life (Local elder)

Note to speaker:

This is the second talk of a three-part symposium. Emphasize that we need to use Bible principles to guide the decisions we make each day. This talk includes a scripted demonstration

WHAT ARE BIBLE PRINCIPLES? (2 min.)

Jehovah lovingly provides laws and principles to safeguard and guide us **[Read Psalm 32:8]**

Bible principles are timeless fundamental truths that do not become outdated

They are the basis for God's laws

Laws and rules may come and go, being applicable for only a particular time or situation

Understanding principles makes it easier to accept and follow related laws (w97 10/15 30)

THE SUPERIORITY OF BIBLE PRINCIPLES (3 min.)

Laws play a vital role in a Christian's life, but discerning the principles behind the laws is even more valuable

There are many situations for which there are no direct commands

God's laws test our obedience; Bible principles test the depth of our desire to please God

Bible principles benefit all who apply them

We are protected physically, mentally, and emotionally

[Discuss one or more examples from the *Good News* brochure, lesson 11, question 4]

TRAIN YOUR PERCEPTIVE POWERS (8 min.)

We must be zealous students of the Bible in order to find and understand godly principles

[Read Hebrews 5:14] (w95 6/15 19-20 ¶16-7)

Set aside time for in-depth Bible study (w10 5/15 23 ¶1-4)

Do not allow distractions to get in the way of meaningful study and meditation

When faced with decisions, make it your habit to do research in our Christian publications

Make Jehovah's way of thinking your way of thinking (w95 6/15 20-21 ¶10-11)

Contemplate the wisdom of applying godly principles and the consequences of ignoring them

Pray for holy spirit to guide your decisions

King David provides a good example of reasoning on Scriptural principles

He grasped the principles behind God's law on blood (2Sa 23:13-17; Iv 77 ¶7)

Bible principles will help you to make wise decisions in areas that require greater use of the conscience, such as recreation, social gatherings, dress and grooming, and the use of alcohol

As you watch the following demonstration, try to discern the Bible principles that our brothers use when deciding whether to attend a social gathering

DEMONSTRATION (4 min.)

[Note: You may make minor adjustments to the script for naturalness and to fit local circumstances.

Participants may use their own names if desired. Rehearse thoroughly so that the demonstration will be conversational, neither comical nor overly dramatic]

[Two young adults are discussing an invitation they received to a social gathering]

Jason: Corey, how was your week?

Corey: **[Exhausted]** Jason, I'm tired. What a busy week!

Jason: I know what you mean. Do you have any plans for the weekend?

Corey: It should be the normal weekend, some service, the meeting, maybe relax a little. By the way, did you get invited to that gathering Devin is putting together?

Jason: **[Jason scrolls through his mobile device and locates the invitation]** I was just about to ask you the same thing. I did! Are you going?

Corey: I heard that a lot of our old friends will be there. And it would be nice to meet some new friends, too . . .**[Nods affirmatively]**

Corey: **[Smile of anticipation]** Yes, that sounds good . . .

Jason: **[Reading the invitation from his mobile device]** "Come enjoy good food, drink, and dancing with friends." It doesn't say anything about an entrance fee. **[Both look at each other with a positive grin]**

Corey: That's good. **[With a curious look]** Does it say anything about the type of food and drink being served?

Jason: No, it doesn't. Why do you ask?

Corey: Well, is there going to be alcohol served?

Jason: Now, don't tell me you're bothered by a little alcohol!

Corey: No, no, I'm not saying that. I'm just saying it would be good to know . . .

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Jason: After all, wine *'makes the heart rejoice.'*

Corey: But there is a big difference between making the heart rejoice and not thinking straight. Even if we don't overindulge, would it be smart to attend a party where others overdrink?

Jason: ***[Thoughtfully]*** Yes, I see your point . . . I guess, for that matter, it would be good to find out what the atmosphere will be like.

Corey: That's a good thought!

Jason: I remember the time I had to leave a gathering. In fact, some at that gathering said they thought they were at a nightclub! The lights were dim. The music was loud. You could barely hear the person talking right next to you!

Corey: ***[Surprised]*** Really!

Jason: Yes, really . . .

Corey: . . . and we don't know much about the type of music that will be played or what kind of dancing there will be. ***[Both agree soberly]***

Corey: You know what, Jason? As much as I would really enjoy going, I think we should find out the answers to our questions. I don't think Devin would throw a wild party, but I don't even want to come close to stumbling anyone.

Jason: That's good thinking. I tell you what, I'll call Devin and find out more details and get back to you.

Corey: Thanks, Jason, I'll wait to hear from you.

Jason: Sure thing.

[Participants exit]

Speaker: What Bible principles guided these brothers? Evidently, the ones found at 1 Timothy 3:8, Titus 2:7, Galatians 5:21, and 2 Corinthians 6:3. [Briefly state the principle found in each verse]

THE BENEFITS OF MAKING WISE DECISIONS BASED ON BIBLE PRINCIPLES (2 min.)

Living by Bible principles will deepen our spirituality

It will help us to base our decisions on Jehovah's thinking, as expressed in the Scriptures

This, in turn, will increase our joy

Above all, our efforts will please Jehovah, who values our response to his loving guidance

Brother _____ will now discuss the final part of this symposium, "Keep Sowing to the Spirit—'Do Not Let Your Hand Rest'"

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text)