HOW TO LIVE FOR GOD IN A HOSTILE WORLD

1. OBEY radically.

1 Peter 4:1-6 "1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. 2 As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. 3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. 4 They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. 5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit." (NIV)

John 14:23-24 "23 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. The words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me." (NIV)

Luke 11:28 "He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (NIV)

2. PRAY diligently.

1 Peter 4:7 "The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray." (NIV)

1 Timothy 2:2-4 "2 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— **2** for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. **3** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (NIV)

Ephesians 1:15-20 "15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, 16 I have not stopped giving

thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. [17] I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. [18] I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, [19] and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength [20] He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms …". (NIV)

Colossians 4:2-4 "[2] Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. [3] And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. [4] Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should." (NIV)

3. LOVE genuinely.

1 Peter 4:8 "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." (NIV)

Romans 12:9-10 "[9] Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. [10] Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." (NIV)

1 John 4:7-12 "[7] Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. [8] Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. [9] This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. [10] This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. [11] Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. [12] No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us." (NIV)

4. SHARE generously.

1 Peter 4:9 "Offer **hospitality** to one another without grumbling." (NIV)

Romans 12:13 "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice **hospitality**." (NIV)

3 John 1:5-8 "5 Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. 6 They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God. 7 It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. 8 We ought therefore to show **hospitality** to such people so that we may work together for the truth." (NIV)

5. SERVE enthusiastically.

1 Peter 4:10-11a "10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received **to serve others**, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides …" (NIV)

Romans 12:4-8 "4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (NIV)

Ephesians 6:7 "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people …" (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE

1 Peter 4:11b "… so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."