

“Take Aim”

Brian Dean on Saturday evening, June 20th, 2020

A little boy’s life revolves around hitting something - throwing rocks, shooting arrows, shooting arrows, kicking a ball, etc.

I am a traditional archer. I don’t use a compound bow and I don’t use a sight. It takes a lot of practice to be accurate. I like to hunt with my bow and I need to practice so that I am successful in hunting.

Following Christ requires practice - not drivenness - but practice.

If you aim at nothing you will hit it every time.

Aim at the right target

God will give us what we need more than what we want.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 - All the runners run but only one gets the prize.

We do not run like one running aimlessly.

We do not fight like a man beating the air.

Take aim at the right target.

We would sing as children, “Read your Bible and pray every day and you will grow, grow, grow.”

The Holy Spirit takes the Bible and causes us to grow as we read the Bible.

It takes effort on our part to grow, to make a plan and to respond to this plan.

Wise Christians live proactively.

Five Biblical principles that help us take aim at the right targets:

1. Aim for the narrow road that leads to life

Matthew 7:13-14 - Small is the gate that leads to life.

This Scripture has been misused sometimes as a stick to hit people over the head.

Taking the path of least resistance is what makes men and rivers crooked.

2 Corinthians 5 - We aim to please the Lord.

There will be rewards.

2. Aim to please God in all that we do

John 8:28-29 - I always do what pleases Him.

Jesus refers to being lifted up like the snake in the desert that brought healing to the Israelites.

Jesus refers to being lifted up on the cross to bring salvation.

When the Holy Spirit asks me to make an adjustment it can be difficult.

3. Aim to have your conscience clear before God and man

Acts 24:15-16 - I aim to have a clear conscience before God and man.

How is your conscience?

Matthew 18 - Jesus gives clear instructions on how to work things out.

We need to humble ourselves. We need to be willing to apologize.

4. Aim to be a child of God who loves the church of Jesus

We are called to love the church - the bride of Christ.

We need to set aside our own agendas - our own time - to build up the church.

There might be times when you have to play out of your position. For example, you might be an introvert but you might be needed to reach out to people.

5. Aim for perfection

2 Corinthians 13:11 - Aim for perfection.

We can look at these words and give up entirely.

There will come a time when we are made perfect.

Remind yourself that you don't earn God's love and approval by being perfect.

When the angel passed over the houses of the Israelites he saw the blood sprinkled on the door frames.

We want to be perfect not to earn God's acceptance but so we will be like Christ.

2 Corinthians 13:5-9 - Examine yourselves. Our prayer is for your perfection.

It is dangerous to live at a level just to get by. Let's press in!

Aim for God's best because this is what He wants to give us.