

# TOM'S LIFE PRINCIPLE

By Darrell Farkas

Tom was invited to speak a few words at a local *Youthful Ambassadors* meeting. This was a group whose purpose was to support local youth in the public schools. They would throw regular “parties” for the youth. They would sing Christian songs and share stories of their faith.

After singing songs of praise to God, Mr. Johnson, the host for this meeting, stood up. His living room was filled to capacity. He was surrounded by a roomful of youth filling every conceivable place. Some had come to these meetings for several years and invited many of their friends. It had grown and encouraged many in the faith.

Mr. Johnson began enthusiastically, “I hope you all enjoyed the pizza and been edified in songs of worship of our great and awesome God and Savior Jesus Christ!” At this, the room echoed a reply of approval from all corners.

“Tonight, we have invited a local youth minister, Mr. Tom, as he likes to be called. He is going to bring us a brief word of support. Please welcome Mr. Tom.”

After Tom stands and the room quiets down, he begins. “I wanted to talk with you today about a basic life principle I always hold in front of me. Being Christians, we need to remind ourselves of this rule to stay

on the straight and narrow path of obedience to God. In short, I’d summarize it as, ‘Never correct the Bible, it’s our place to be corrected by it.’

“We grow up in a culture that works to mold our opinions. As Christians, our direction needs to be recalibrated to follow our Lord’s teachings. For followers of Jesus, discipleship isn’t an option. That choice was determined when we chose to become a Christian.

“I remember meeting someone who claimed to be a Christian, who didn’t want to read the whole Bible. Why?”

Someone from the room shouts out, “Because of its size?”

Tom chuckles, “Good try, but it wasn’t that at all. No, the complaint was that it contained too many things this person didn’t agree with.

“You see, we cannot help but encounter many confusing topics in its pages. The way I look at it. I know it is God’s Word to us. When I encounter something that seems to go against the grain of my previous point of view, I think this way, ‘I may not understand why it says what it does. I may not be able to reason it in my mind yet, but I know for certain, it is not wrong.’ With that I will always pray something like, ‘God, please help me to understand this. It is confusing and seems almost unacceptable, as I understand it, but I know it is true, and if there is error in thought, it lies on my part. In Jesus’ name.’

“This is the critical life principle we as Christians need to walk by.

“It goes one step further, though. All of this book,” Tom holds his Bible in the air for all to see, “is inspired of God for our profit. He has protected it through history so we could understand what He wants of us. There are wolves in sheep’s clothing who publish ‘religious’ books, even commentaries on the Bible, or Bible dictionaries, Bible archaeology, or the like. In the pages of many of these books they sow words of darkness like this:

‘archaeology has confirmed many of the details on the account of the fall of Jericho. Remains of the wall have been excavated, the only historical inconsistency has been the timing of the event. Many archaeologists date the event several centuries before the Israeli entrance into the land.’

“I made that example up, but we need to think critically here. When we hear or read something like that, we may naively think, that’s great, archaeology helps prove the Bible. We need to note the serpent’s hiss that is planted in such talk. It acknowledges some point of truth while giving a back-handed slap of another point. Thus, it slanders the Word of God as unreliable. Such talk slowly undermines the Word of God as reliable and authoritative. When you come across such material, discard it.

“Finally, there are many places that may not be disagreeable to our way of thinking, but are confusing. Sometimes all we can do is read on. Eventually we gain enough background knowledge that it will make sense the next time through. There are other times though, where we will need to research the original text: the Hebrew, Chaldean or Greek it was written in. There are books that help to do that, even if we don’t know the languages ourselves. I have found that with this extra step of research, the confusion will inevitably be cleared up. I haven’t been disappointed yet, even down to the issue of spelling differences or name variations. Inevitably, I have found the Bible to be rock-solid. Because of this, I know that any ‘alleged discrepancy’ need not trouble my heart. God’s word has always proven accurate and reliable. It may take time to figure some scriptural riddle out, but the answer is there. When I find the answer, it seems to light the passage with greater glory, seeing how the subject is covered in various ways, yet no contradiction or error in sight. After coming

to understand a difficult passage or verse I can’t help but conclude - BRILLIANT!”

At this, Tom thanks Mr. Johnson for the opportunity to share this life principle for the Christian life and takes his seat.

The youth exclaim with a chorus of amens.

Available at  
[www.basedintheword.org](http://www.basedintheword.org)  
as “Tom’s Life Principle”



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