

Everything I Needed To Know Was in the Bible

A popular book has been written around the notion: All I needed to know, I learned in kindergarten. A better view of childhood from a spiritual point of view is that "Everything I Needed To Know Was in the Bible." How often as a child and young adult do we ignore those teachings from the Bible, only to be burnt hard in later life by the devastating nature of those very sins spoken of by parents and teachers in Bible classes? Here are a few of those direct commands and principles. Young people, take heed. Parents, let's be good teachers.

Abstain from every form of evil.

1 Th 5:22 tells us directly to "abstain from every form of evil." We don't seem to get it, but "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8. When we get near evil, the devil is there with his enticement to sin. It is not something you can flirt with. James outlines the entrapment procedure used by the devil in James 1:14-16: "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren."

How easy it is to be deceived and enticed: just smoke one cigarette; just hang out in the bar one night; just use pot one time. Rather than flirt with these evils we should flee: "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Tim 2:22.

Bad company corrupts good morals.

We are taught in our youth to avoid evil companions. We need to stay close to those "who call on the Lord." Watch out for the companions that are doing things that are wrong. They will corrupt us: "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'" 1 Cor 15:33. How often my mom warned me about my company. And how often bad company almost lured me into doing things that could have been life ruining. Drugs, violence, and immoral acts—all of these and more—lay in wait. More often than not, bad companions introduce young people to these devastating sins. But watch out for bad friends. Be careful. 1 John 2:15-16 tells us "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world." The company you keep may do you in. But if you resist, the devil will flee from you (James 4:7).

Pride goes before a fall.

It is so easy for us to think more of ourselves than we ought. We think we are smarter than our parents and teachers. We think we know more than we do. It is often our way or no way. But the wise man warned in Proverbs 16:18: "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall." In James 4:6, the New Testament concurs: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." In the beatitudes, Christ spoke of a better way: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Again: "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth." We should subject our pride to the will of God: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all." Eccl 12:13.

Conclusion.

Yes indeed, everything we need to know is in the Bible. These are only starters. God's word equips the young in every good work: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Tim 3:16-17

Study questions.

1. What should be the Christian attitude toward evil? _____

2. What are five steps from temptation to sin? _____

3. What young people to flee? _____
To follow? _____

4. What are the consequences to hanging around with the wrong crowd? _____

5. List the three things that are not of the Father but of the world? _____

6. What goes before destruction? _____