

Top 10 Ways to Thrive in Oz

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – October 11, 2015

[1 Peter 2:9-12](#)

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1. LIVE OUT GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE

[1 Peter 2:9](#)

... you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

2. LIVE WITH INTEGRITY

[1 Peter 2:11-12](#)

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

3. LAUGH WHENEVER YOU CAN

[Phil 4:4](#)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

[Neh 8:10](#)

“... Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

4. WORK HARD AS TO GOD

[Col 3:23-24](#)

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 ... It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

5. MAKE TIME FOR GOD AND OTHERS

[Mark 12:30-31](#)

30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

6. BE MERCIFUL AND FORGIVE

[1 Peter 2:10b](#)

Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

[Col 3:13](#)

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

7. SAY “I LOVE YOU” OFTEN

[John 13:34-35](#)

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

8. GUARD YOUR THOUGHTS, WORDS & ACTIONS

[1 Cor 10:5](#)

... take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

[Eph 5:3-4](#)

3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

9. TRUST GOD

[Prov 3:5](#)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

10. FINISH STRONG

[2 Tim 4:7](#)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.