

**“Some Guiding Principles For The Christian  
Worker To Keep In Mind”  
Acts 1:8**

Some years ago, while serving on the staff of Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, I was asked to share an inspirational devotional at the beginning of a workshop for staff. The workshop participants were mostly social workers and supervisors. These people were committed Christians who had answered God’s call to a specialized Christian ministry whose call to serve was “to help hurting children and heal broken families.” The ministry was always challenging with long hours and difficult tasks to accomplish in our Lord’s name. Major resources were needed – especially strong inner resources which enabled workers to form relationships, have a clear vision of what troubled children and families can become, and the will power “to keep on keeping on” when the going gets rough!

During my preparation time, I came across an article by Dr. James L. Sullivan of the Southern Baptist Convention. In that article, this man of God, whom I had heard preach several times, listed what he called “Some guiding principles for the Christian worker to keep in mind.” I was inspired by the article and felt that I should give Dr. Sullivan credit and share the principles with those workshop participants. I did and many of the participants asked for copies of the principles, which Dr. Sullivan listed. Here are those principles:

1. Remember Jesus. Based on the Gospel records, as we fulfill our ministry as Christian people, we should always remember Jesus – His life, His teachings, His example.
2. Pray much. Jesus did. The Gospels picture Jesus as a Man of prayer. Someone has said: “Prayer will give us strength, for tasks which must be done.” It was true of Jesus. It will also be true for us.
3. Focus on one person or one job at a time. Jesus ministered to the multitudes – as should we – but we have many examples where He focused on one person at a time – Zaccheus, the woman at the well, the rich young ruler, etc.
4. Keep your eyes focused on the objective. Know what the goal is and work the strategies which will reach the goal.
5. Organize your work. With strong purpose have a plan and the step by step process which will lead to reaching the goal.
6. Do not let human frailties shatter your faith – your own weaknesses or the weaknesses of other people. Stumbling blocks will come. Like the Apostle Paul, “keep the faith.”
7. Rest when you can. Rest is necessary. Someone has wisely said: “The person who is available all the time is not worth much when he/she is available.”
8. Care for the body. Remember that our body is the “temple of the Holy Spirit.” A healthy body makes us more effective and willing servants of God. Make sure that the “spirit” and the “flesh” are always willing and able.

9. Set a pace which is challenging but not impossible to maintain. Work with consistency rather than in spurts.
10. Store up spiritual reserves. Make sure we have on the “whole armor of God” as we serve in the name of our Lord.

For over 20 years, I have tried to apply these principles to my life and work. My testimony is this: “THEY WORK.”

Reverend Phillip R. Morrow Sr.