



As School Begins...

Written by the SSP Committee with special interview with Bro. Josh Benyola

As school begins, we would like to remind you that:

You matter.

You matter to your friends, your family and the church.

But most importantly, you matter to God and His son who died for you.

Even though you're so very important to all of these different people, life can be incredibly difficult and it's easy to get lost in the never-ending waves of the day-to-day, and in this article, we'd like to share some good thoughts with you to help you be successful in whatever phase of life you may be in.

1. Planning Peace

Have you ever had that moment where you stop and ask yourself, "What in the world is going on in my life?"

It may feel like every turn on the road is the wrong turn; or every decision is a mistake. It may feel like nothing in your life is important, or nothing is going the way it should or that it's just sheer chaos. (And we get that, we do...)

But what you *should* realize is that even though there is chaos and life gets crazy, God has a plan for you. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God has always had a plan for us and it's a plan only to help us and make us live better. Not

only that, but we learn in 1 Corinthians 14:33 that God is not "the author of confusion", but instead He writes *peace*.

Do you understand what that means?

That means that God has written a plan for your life and it is one that is meant to only bring good to you, because it is one of peace.



Bro. Josh Benyola says:

“Take the plunge and dare yourself *right now* to open up and believe that there is a plan specifically designed for your life. Because there is, and it’s a good one.”

2. Preserving the Mind

Our minds and thoughts are *incredibly* powerful. After all, that’s why we go to school: to strengthen our already strong minds. Although our minds are strong, they are incredibly hard to control if we’re unaware of what’s coming in through our eyes and ears.

Our thoughts due to this pull from the intake of information to our bodies are like bodies of water, because they flow whichever way the current (or input) leads them.

What does this mean? This means that the outside world influences our thoughts every moment of every single day.

What does *this* mean? This means that we have to be very aware of what we’re around all the time. 1 Corinthians 15:33

makes it pretty hard when it says that bad company corrupts good morals.

For those of you in school or college or even a real adult job, this means that we have to protect ourselves from this bad company and influence to preserve the mind that God has given us.

Bro. Josh Benyola says:

“This is why self-belief is so incredibly important. It all starts with love and trickles down into every aspect of happiness and self-worth.

There’s a lot we can say about the mind, but what about our hearts? It’s the deepest, most important part of our being, and no matter which way you look at the heart, it holds the most importance. And to preserve the mind is to also preserve the heart.”

3. Fighting Routines

For a lot of school age people, we would all agree that

the hardest part is being perseverant. It’s *hard* to go somewhere eight hours every day that you don’t completely love. It’s *hard* to do your homework when you don’t understand it. And it’s *hard* to take that test even though you didn’t study enough the night before.

But one thing that’s great about living in Christ is that He always takes care of us (disclaimer: this does not mean you shouldn’t study). However, let’s take a quick look at the Woman at the Well from John 4. She woke up that morning probably tired, a little achy, ready to go back to sleep again. She probably woke up dreading her morning tasks and the errands she had to run that day.

She had no idea her soul would be saved later that same day.

Then she meets Jesus and you can read the rest for yourself

But the point is that Jesus surprised her. But He surprised her because she went to the well, because she did what she had to do.

For us, this means that we need to keep doing what’s right, what we need to do. Sometimes



God's voice isn't crystal clear but that doesn't mean we should stop living. That means we should live *harder*. You don't feel prepared enough for the exam? You don't understand your homework? You hate calculus? Then you should be ready for God to do something in those situations by continuing to work at them.

Bro. Josh Benyola says:

“The point of this is that no matter what you go through keep your chin up, look up and get up even if you're knocked down. Keep the fight while climbing up the mountain and stay positive because this walk we are all on can be challenging but possible through Christ's love. Think about it: we as people of God have a direction and a plan specifically designed for us.”

Don't forget what we started this article with:

You matter so much. Although you have challenges ahead, you also have blessings. So get set, get ready and **GO!** Get the blessings that God has lying ahead for you to grab!

