How to Live Until You Die

I like country western music and those country western singers seem to have a lot of ideas about how to live until you die, or about life in general. Here are some lines from some country songs:

1. His teeth were stained, but his heart was pure.
2. How can I miss you if you won't go away?
3. I still miss you baby, but my aim is getting better.
4. My wife ran off with my best friend, and I sure miss him.
5. I just want to live until I die.

That last one is the subject of our talk today: How do we live until we die?

We so easily get wrapped up in the small stuff.
What is really important?
We seem to want a lot of stuff, but how important is all that stuff?

Ephesians 5:15-17 Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise, but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

Life is short.
We know scripture tells us we are not guaranteed tomorrow. If we know we are going to die next week what would we do differently next week? Why would we do it differently?

Think about eternity. Think about being in heaven forever.

Think of the opportunities Christ gave us: He preached the gospel, he planted the seeds for churches, and he ministered to the needs of others. He demonstrated his level of service every day he walked on the earth and when he washed the disciples’ feet at the last supper.

1 James 4:14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

God knows what our tomorrows will be. We don’t. We don’t even know if we will have a tomorrow. We are only here for a short time. Are we utilizing that time? Are we serving others? We have to look for those opportunities to spread the word of Jesus Christ.

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full.

In our lives today we are overloaded with commitments, possessions, work, and bombarded with information.

Satan uses that to his advantage because all he has to do is get us a little percent off and that percent then grows. That is why it is so important to atone for our sins immediately. Find a confidant you can trust, talk through your problems and then release them to God.

Understand what the Lord’s will is. In his last days Paul poured out his heart to Timothy.
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2 Timothy 4:6-7 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

I want to be able to tell God I gave everything I had like a runner after a race who collapses because he gave everything he had.

If we make a decision – and then we put it in God’s hands if we have not listened to God and trusted God to handle it, what good was our decision?

Joshua 3:5 Then Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.”

Have Godly council.

If we don’t have the desire to serve God – it ain’t going to happen.
God may not give you everything immediately. Sometimes God may put us on our knees just to get us to look up. (use as sidebar)
Remember that Jesus put himself as a servant to serve.
Are we willing to wash another’s feet?

God wants to bless us beyond belief, but we have to be serving him.

Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

Get to a quiet place and a quiet time to learn God’s will.

There are two reasons you don’t receive: You don’t receive because you don’t ask and you don’t receive because you ask for the wrong things.

A lot of people say people in the church are hypocrites – and they’re right. A lot of us when we are saved we think we are better than everyone else, and we’re not. If we don’t give every aspect of our lives over to God and trust God to handle it, we are no better than those we judge to not be true Christians.

We have a false knowledge of what a Christian is. It’s not easy. It’s not the easiest thing to do, but in my mind, it’s the only thing to do. A true Christian serves.

Faith without deeds is death.

And finally, what happens if we know God’s word and don’t share it? There are numerous opportunities for sharing. It’s true that doors open and close, but what happens if we see someone in pain and we don’t stop to pray for them. What happens if our neighbor is in need and we don’t help them? What happens if God says go here or go there and we don’t go?

James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.