All of these things are points we need to incorporate into our parenting as well. Focus on these BOLD life choices with our children this year and just stand in awe as God changes all of us to be more like Him.

Last week, we discussed present your bodies a living sacrifice—which is our reasonable service.

2. Become more like God and less like the world—you should never be so comfortable in the culture that you fit into it easily. Fix your attention on God—and become more like HIM—Live Boldly! ☺

3. Don’t think too highly of yourself, for we are of one body. Meditate on what God has done for us—day in and day out—and act as one who does. Never look at what we are doing for others—rather stand in awe of the ways He allows us to serve Him and those He brings across our paths. Also, don’t compare ourselves to others… we are all parts of the same body. We may have different functions, but we have the same Master and should have the same goals.

4. Let love be genuine. Let it be central to who you are. Again, as I have mentioned over and over, what is inside will be seen. If we are driven by love, our lives will emanate that kind of love for others… genuinely. Love from the center of who you are. Make it your goal this year to have LOVE be among the first words that comes to mind when others speak or think of you.

5. Abhor what is evil, stand fast to what is good. RUN from evil—don’t toy with it. Don’t stand close to it. Put up a barbed wire fence and separate yourself from it.

6. Love other people—in fact, love them so much you outdo them in showing honor. We have this verse hanging in the kid’s bathroom and have for years. It’s a practical reminder in a place where you can tend to be selfish. ☺

7. Serve the Lord—Never slothfuly, but fervently. Keep a right perspective as you serve as well. That can sometimes be hard for us “take charge” gals. ☺ I love this from a paraphrase of God’s Word: If you preach, just preach God’s Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don’t take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don’t get bossy; if you’re put in charge, don’t manipulate; if you’re called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don’t let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.

8. Rejoice in Hope, and be constant in prayer, no matter what trials and tribulations come your way. Don’t quit in hard times—pray even harder. Remember, God never wastes a trial. When He has tried us, we will come forth as gold. What a wonderful promise that is! BUT, we need to be sure we are seeking His face through those trials to make sure we are growing the way He intends for us to.

9. Be generous to meet the needs of those around you. God’s love is hospitable. God’s love will drives you to meet needs. We need to become very inventive in ways we can do that. If you have special ways you meet needs—or know of needs we may not be aware of—let us know through email or start a conversation in our Facebook Group.

10. Love your enemies—even those who persecute you. That even means no cursing or smarting off about them under your breath. Do you have an issue with that? My sarcastic bent tends to betray me on this one sometimes. If, though, I am to love my enemies that must come from my heart and be consistent in how I act around them to their face and behind their back. (GULP)

11. Rejoice and weep genuinely with others. Sometimes the weeping is easier than the rejoicing, isn’t it? Sometimes, our selfish hearts don’t want to rejoice with others—instead we want what they have. Oh, may we live boldly and walk away from that.

12. Live in harmony with others. We teach this to our children every day, don’t we. Are we practicing it in our neighborhood, within our churches, in our FACEBOOK groups?

13. Don’t be haughty and never be wise in your own sight. Make friends with those who seemingly have nothing to offer you. Don’t be stuck up. Don’t be clickish. And NEVER think more highly of your thoughts and ideas than you should.

14. Live peaceably with everyone, never seeking to “give them what they deserve.” As you have been given grace, so you must pass on that grace to those who need it.

15. Finally, trust God to make things right. It’s not our place to get even—God is the judge. We need to practice the forgiveness Jesus taught His disciples and be ready to forgive 70X7… and forget those offenses. It’s easy to say we forgive, but to hold on to our grievances, isn’t it. This is a GREAT reminder for our marriages. Don’t let evil ever get the best of you. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.