



## Examples of a Clutter-Free Life

**Vault verse for the month: Hebrews 12:1–2 (NLT)** <sup>1</sup> *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.* <sup>2</sup> *We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.*

1. Spiritual clutter is the accumulation of anything that hinders or distracts from the pursuit of pleasing God.
2. The very things God intended to bless us are the things the devil wants to use to harm us.
3. When we emphasize the temporary rather than the eternal, we collect clutter.
4. The Bible is written with instructions, illustrations, and examples.
5. The examples of scripture fall into two categories—examples to follow and examples to avoid.
6. The examples scattered through the scriptures lead us toward a clutter-free life.

### 1. Joseph when he refused the temptation of Potiphar's wife

Gen 37-39

1. Joseph's life was filled with wild swings of circumstances.

Favored son—despised brother—purchased slave—favored servant—desired man—forsaken prisoner—restored leader—providing sibling—reunited family member

2. The constant through all these times was his devotion to God.

### 2. Daniel was known for his daily habit of prayer

Daniel 6

1. Daniel was regarded as the most competent of all the leaders.
2. Daniel was known for his daily prayers to God.
3. The key to success in life is not what you do occasionally but what you do regularly.

***"Champions do daily what others do occasionally."* Neil Kennedy**

4. Daniel faced severe punishment for his commitment to prayer.



### 3. Peter and John declared the gospel of Jesus boldly

#### Acts 4

1. God had worked **powerfully** in the Church using Peter as the primary speaker.
2. Peter and John were arrested for **preaching the truth**.
3. They were unwavering in their **conviction**.

### 4. ~~Saul~~ Paul was transformed by an encounter with Jesus

#### Acts 9

1. Saul was a chief **persecutor** of Christians.
2. Jesus **literally** stopped Saul in his tracks.
3. Saul was so completely **transformed** that even his name was changed to Paul.
4. From that day forward Paul's life could be summed up by his **profession** in Philippians 4.

**Philippians 3:13–14 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup> *No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but **I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,*** <sup>14</sup> ***I press on** to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

### 5. Paul and Silas sing through the pain

#### Acts 16

1. Paul and Silas were **preaching** the gospel and bringing **deliverance** to sinners.
2. The **sinner did not want to be delivered**.
3. Paul and Silas were in a **dark, damp, cold, confined** place of **punishment** **for doing good**.
4. They were singing **before** God provided their freedom.
5. Paul and Silas were marked by **joyful worship** even in difficult times.

### 6. The entire life of Jesus was marked by intentional actions

1. His birth, his miracles, his ministry, and even his death were in **complete obedience** to the will of the Father.
2. **Nothing** of value happens by chance. (Accidents happen without preparation.)
3. The major focus of his life was to **bridge the gap** between man and God.
4. His **obedience** caused his death.
5. His obedience secured our **victory**.
6. Jesus' life was marked by an unwavering **perseverance**.

**Stay clutter-free in your pursuit of holiness!**

**2 Corinthians 5:9 (NIV)** *So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.*