The Things I know Bill Elliff

- God's presence. Everything flows from the presence of the Lord (John 15). We must seek His presence constantly. If we have Him, we have all we need. If we are not experiencing Him, we have nothing that matters and lasts.
- 2. **God's will.** God's will for your character is universal. His will for your service is personal. If you will follow God's will about your character, finding His will about your service is no problem. There are 3 "lights" he gives us to know His will: the word of God, the Spirit of God (His inner witness to us), and the people of God (godly counsel). (Psalm 25)
- 3. **Humility.** Pride is the mother of all sins. The only approach God honors is humility (acknowledging my sin and admitting my need.) (Matthew 5:3; James 4:6)
- 4. **Brokenness.** The primary requirement for ministry and usefulness is brokenness, a willingness to be governed by God alone. (Matthew 5:4-6)
- 5. **Forgiveness.** Forgiveness is an act of my will, made possible by the grace of God, to release a debt by faith for the glory of God. It is the great theme of the Bible and must be learned on the anvil of daily relationships (Romans 12:17-21)
- 6. Clear Conscience. Usefulness is gained by having the roof off and the walls down...a clear conscience before God and man. (Acts 24:16; Psalm 51)
- 7. **Usefulness.** If I will take care of the depth of my life, God will take care of the breadth of my ministry. There is never a need to promote myself. God will take care of any lifting up that is needed.
- 8. **Faith.** Faith is the primary operating system of God with man. Faith has the two wings of utter dependence upon God and expectancy of God. Without faith it is impossible to relate to God and please Him. (Hebrews 11:6) Every circumstance of life is designed by God to teach us how to live by faith. Therefore, I must see everything from this perspective and rejoice in the lessons of faith each circumstance is teaching! (James 1:1-3)
- 9. **God's Promises.** God's promises are the means by which He brings us to faith. There are 7,000 promises in the Word, 3 on every page! I must be a man who constantly hears God's promises and moves by faith. (2 Peter 1:2-4)

- 10. **Worship.** Worship can be done in every moment of the common day. It is seeing God as He is and giving Him what He deserves. (John 4:24)
- 11. **Filling of the Holy Spirit**. *I can do nothing of value without the filling of the Holy Spirit* ... the conscious, continual surrender of my life to the Spirit of God who lives within me. (Ephesians 5:18)
- 12. **Embracing God's Sovereignty**. God has a right to do whatever He desires with my life for His glory. Bitterness comes by not accepting and giving thanks to God for every person and circumstance He places in my life. I must embrace the sovereignty of God over my life. (Hebrews 12:15)
- 13. **Grace**. Grace is the Divine dynamic, accessed through humility, which gives me the desire and power to obey God. (2 Cor. 12:7-10; James 4:6)
- 14. **Life message**. Every issue in my life, properly responded to and seen, can become a part of my life message to help others for the glory of God. (Genesis 50)
- 15. **God's Word.** The Word of God is the living, active voice of God for my life and this world. The consistent, daily intake of the Word of God is the most important spiritual exercise that can be done for spiritual growth. Nothing builds faith, increases intimacy, gives direction, and empowers life like the study of God's Word. (Psalm 1, 119)
- 16. **Prayer**. *Prayer is communion with God. It is to be the constant breath of my life.* I am to pray without ceasing, which is possible as commanded, through opening up every moment of the common day to God's presence. It is allowing Him in and listening intently to His voice. (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Colossians 4:2, Philippians 4:4-6)
- 17. **Revival**. Revival is the extraordinary movement of the Spirit of God that produces extraordinary results. It is a periodic invasion from heaven given to remind us of what God's kingdom is really like and to lead to the rapid expansion of the gospel to the glory of Christ. Our constant goal should be to do the normal work of the church, but constantly praying for a mighty revival of God's people and spiritual awakening among the lost. (Psalm 85)
- 18. **Personal revival.** We can experience personal revival at any time through recognizing our need so greatly that we gladly bow before Him. (Matthew 5:3-5)

- 19. **The home.** The home is the first church for the believer. It is the foundational unit of God's plan for this earth and it must be nurtured only second to your personal relationship to Christ. It is where discipleship is learned. The home should be filled with spiritual life, laughter, and overwhelming love! Many faults and failings can be overcome by genuine love. (Ephesians 5)
- 20. **Children.** Children are a blessing from God, and a reward. They are given to us by God to develop and sent out to reach the next generation. Our great goal should be to help them become Christ-centered, people-focused, truth-driven, and grace-filled disciples. We should instill in our children a mission to live for God's glory! (Psalm 127)
- 21. **The Church**. The church is God's ordained means of representing Him and reaching this world in this age with the gospel. It is glorious and powerful, even though it is plagued by man's imperfections. It is to be a microcosmic picture of heaven. (Acts 2:41-47)
- 22. **Discipling.** We must live our lives, not only to make disciples, but disciplemakers so the principle of multiplication can explode through our lives and God's kingdom can advance. I should always be discipling others. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- 23. Faithfulness. Our lives should be expendable for the sake of the gospel and finishing the course God has set for us. (Acts 20:24, Philippians 1:20-21, 2 Timothy 4:6-8)
- 24. **Contentment**. Contentment comes by settling the issue of why you live. If you live to see Christ magnified in your body by life or by death, then your life goal can be accomplished in any circumstance. In fact, the darker the darkness around you, the more brilliant the Light becomes. (Philippians 1:20-21; 4:6-19)
- 25. **Eternity**. This life is brief and eternity is real. Heaven should be our daily thought to keep this life in perspective. We must live, not for the "dot" of this earthly life, but the long "line" of eternity. This makes this world uninteresting, suffering endurable, ministry urgent, and the future full of hope! (2 Corinthians 4-5)