

THE CHRISTIAN LIVING PART 2

THE BASICS OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

Memory verse:

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Pet 2:2)

Text: *Hebrews 6:1-2; 1 Cor. 3:11-12; Ps. 11:3; Eph 4:13-17*

INTRODUCTION

The Christian life is not a castle built on air. A house built on a quick sand will soon fall. It is therefore important to realize that Christian living is built on a solid foundation in order to withstand the storms of life. The fundamentals or basics of Christian living consist of the spiritual exercises or means of grace which the believer employs to maintain a consistent living relationship with Christ.

LESSON OUTLINE

i. Quiet Time:

Mark 1:35; Ps 5:3; 55:17.

Quiet time is a time when the believer shuts out every distraction to engage himself in private fellowship with God. It is a means of drawing from the gold mine of God's inexhaustible grace to keep living the life of heaven in a world of darkness. It involves praises, worship, prayer, scripture reading and meditation as well as intercession. It is a moment of soul-searching and spiritual reflection as the believer sees himself in the mirror of God's word. Many Christians have found it convenient to do this early in the morning when the mind is free from distraction and fresh after night's rest. This was the practice of our Lord Jesus Christ before stepping into a busy day and a believer who wishes to maintain consistent victory should learn from our Lord.

Question

1. What is quiet time?
2. What are the advantages of quiet time?
3. When should we observe quiet time?
4. How do we do quiet time?

ii. Personal Prayer:

1 Chron. 16:11; Ps 18:3; Luk. 18:1; Mark 13:33; Luk 22:46; Jam 5:16-18.

Prayer has been described as the vital breath of the believer. As far as he is in the world, the believer cannot help praying. Jesus Christ our Lord was also an example for us in this regard. He always withdraws Himself into a solitary place to pray. Prayer is one of the greatest sources of power for the Christian. It is often said that a prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian. The need for constant personal prayer in the life of a Christian cannot be over-emphasized. Prayer can be made more effective when fasting is added to it. Remember that the prayer of yesterday is not enough for the problems of today "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Mat 6:34c).

iii. Habitual Bible study, Meditation and Reading of helpful Christian Literatures:

2 Tim 2:15; John 5:39; Acts 17:11; Rom 10:17; Rev 1:3.

Apart from prayer and quiet time the study of the word of God is very vital in building our faith in God. Scripture searching and meditation is an indispensable step in obedience and personal cleansing where or whenever we discover faults or errors in our lives. The word of God in the heart of a believer is a formidable weapon in fighting the three-fold war against the devil, the flesh and the world. It is the sword of the spirit. It is the anchor on which our faith holds in the midst of the howling storms of fear and doubt. It makes praying effective and when combined with faith, makes our request undeniable at the throne of grace. There is a blessed tree in Psalm 3:3 but the secret of this tree is in verses 1 and 2. The secret to success is reading and meditating on the word of God Joshua 1:8.

To do this, you need to get a regular pattern. It may be chapter reading to read through the new testament, old testament, the prophet, the Epistle or the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation. It may be character study of a person or a topic. You also need a note to write.

Others

iv. Obedience to God's word and faith in His Promises:

1 Sam 15:22-24; Jos 1:8; Exo 19:5; 23:22; Luk 11:28; Mark 11:22; Heb 11:6.

Obedience and faith are two indispensable things that are required from every believer to remain a Christian. The moment these two things are lacking in a Christian, he is no longer a child of God. These are the basis of our relationship with God. Without faith, it is impossible to be a child of God. Faith helps in obedience and obedience itself is faith. As we read the Bible we are bound to obey all the revealed will of God. Every serious believer will pray and receive grace to obey God, our Father.

v. Witnessing/Christian Service:

Acts 1:8; 2 Tim 4:2; Luke 9:60; Mark 16:15-16; John 12:26; 21:15-17; Eph 6:15; John 15:1-7.

Another essential aspect of Christian living is that of Christian service and witnessing. Every believer is called to be a witness of Christ – of His saving grace. We are to witness to those around us by holy living and gospel preaching. Also, we are required to render sacrificial service to the body of Christ. These are indispensable antidotes against backsliding. He that watereth shall also himself be watered. Fruit bearing in our Christian lives makes us fit for divine purging and advancement to higher service.

vi. Regular fellowship:

Heb 10:25; 1 John 1:3-7; Acts 2:42-47; Ps 133:1-3; 122:1; Eph 4:11-14.

Regular fellowship is one of those Christian exercises that imbue us with courage, strength and determination to continue in the Christian race. In joyful fellowship our spiritual lives are nourished by the word of God through the ministry of various ministers. Our faith is built up through sound testimonies, corporate prayers and mutual love of the brethren. Fellowship gives us a sense of belonging to the family of God where we share, care and love. All these are time-tested fundamentals of successful Christian living of which many have neglected and made shipwreck of the faith. "If these things be in you and abound... ye shall never fall" (2 Peter 1:5-9).

CONCLUSION

There is an old song that still has relevance to till today. Read your Bible, pray every day, if you want to grow. It is still the secret of walking with God today.