

Pastor Little's Word for the Week

Fundamentals of Faith

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." (John 13:17)

There are certain fundamental things in life that we never out grow. Courtesy to others, consistency in our efforts, sincerity in our self-presentation, just to name a few. The practice of such basic behaviors help us get along in the world.

The same rules apply in our spiritual lives. Growing our souls and pleasing God requires the same consistent application of good habits. There are three spiritual basics that cannot be overlooked if we want to walk in the blessedness of the Lord.

1. Prayer.

Prayer is not difficult. It is simply talking to God — but it is an indispensable aspect of the Christian life. In fact, the process of becoming a Christian begins with saying a prayer: "Lord Jesus, forgive me of my sins and come into my life as Lord and Savior."

Prayer is an incredible privilege — we can talk to the creator of the universe at any time about anything at all, and he has promised not only to listen to our prayers, but to answer them as well.

The Bible tells us about the prayer habits of Jesus.

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." (Mark 1:35)

"Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." (Luke 5:16)

Since we all believe in prayer, it is hard to imagine that any of us would go a day without praying.

2. Reading the Bible.

King David said this about a righteous person:

"The law of his God is in his heart; his feet do not slip. (Psalm 37:31)

There is a connection between Bible reading and holiness. When you read with an open heart and open mind, the Word comes alive. It speaks to you. It comforts you when you are down, it challenges you to love God and love others, it reminds you to pray, it exhorts you to walk worthy.

Reading the Bible helps us remain dependent upon God — it keeps us from going off on spiritual tangents, and it keeps our feet on solid ground.

"Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." (Joshua 1:8)

The Bible speaks to you about you; when you open the Word and say "Lord speak to me" it enables you to remain dependent upon him for leadership and guidance in your daily life.

3. Sharing your faith.

Sharing your faith is really a matter of showing your faith — through your words and through your actions. Though there may be occasions where you have the opportunity to witness to a stranger, the most effective method of witnessing is showing your faith to the people you see day in and day out: co-workers, neighbors, family, and friends.

Christianity becomes irresistible when people see it at work in your life.

In the ninth chapter of John, Jesus healed a blind man. Later, he was questioned by the authorities who were trying to trap Jesus on a religious technicality. The man simply said...

"Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind and now I see!" (John 9:35)

Showing your faith is a matter of telling others what Christ has done for you, and showing it in the way that you live. This requires that we depend on God for strength to be consistent in our daily, and for wisdom to say the right thing at the right time.

The fundamentals of the spiritual life are prayer, Bible study, church attendance and witnessing. Most of us already know this. But the reason these are so important is that doing each one well requires that we depend on God each step of the way.

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." (John 13:17)