HOW DO WE KEEP OUR "FIRST LOVE" WITH

JESUS AND THE WORD OF GOD?

Immediately following salvation, the Spirit of God enters our life and confirms that a new relationship has been established with God. *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God!'* ***Romans 8:16***

God's Spirit within us produces love for and obedience to God and His word. As long as we are dependent upon God for our strength and are obedient to His word, we experience the grace of a new Christian's "first love."

It is very easy, however, to grieve the Spirit of God and to leave our "first love."

CAN WE LEAVE OUR"FIRST LOVE"?

*"I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*

*"And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.*

*"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

*"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent"* ***Revelation 2:2-5***

HOW DO WE LEAVE OUR "FIRST LOVE"?

* Is it because of not working for God?

No. We can be very busy for God and still not have the joy of our "first love." The church which left its first love had "works" and "labour." They even labored for the right Person and the right cause.

* Is it because of not reading the Bible?

No. We can have all the knowledge of the Bible and still lose our "first love." The Pharisees knew the Scriptures well. The church which left its first love also knew the word. They used the word to check the authenticity of apostles.

* Is it because of not praying?

No. We can pray and still be spiritually cold

* Is it because of not witnessing?

No. It is possible to witness and still have a dullness in our souls. The labor of the church which left its first love certainly included witnessing. They witnessed to the truth and did not become fainthearted.

WE LEAVE OUR "FIRST LOVE" WHEN WE LOSE OUR DAILY AWARENESS OF OUR NEED FOR GOD.

Our need for God is the very motivation that brings us to salvation; however, once God begins to meet our needs, we tend to forget that we have them. We become rich and increased with goods and feel that we have need of nothing. Then we lose our "first love." ***Revelation 3:17***

We see a process in God's dealing with His own people. God led Israel out of the bondage of Egypt to the Promised Land. Each step of the way brought new needs which were far beyond their ability to meet: deliverance from the pursuing Egyptian army, food and water in the barren desert, and direction on where and when to move. All through those years God did not allow the Israelites to plant crops or to build houses; they were totally dependent on His provision direction, and protection. Even the absence of manna one day each week was a powerful reminder not to take Him for granted.

When the Israelites reached the edge of the Promised Land, God predicted that they would lose their love for Him, and He told them exactly how it would happen. The very same sequence takes place in our lives today!

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Study #4

Daily Walk

D

Lesson Commenced: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lesson Completed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bible Christianity is not a *CREED* (a set of beliefs), but a **PERSON**: ***The Lord Jesus Christ***. When we receive the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, we receive Him as a real Person into our heart and life - and although there are many THINGS to learn about the Lord and the Christian life, we must never forget there is a personal relationship to be enjoyed and maintained. Personal relationships are maintained by communication. Every Christian needs a ***“Daily Walk”*** with his or her Lord to enjoy all that God has in store. This is the battleground where victory or defeat in your Christian life will be decided! Let’s look at some truths from Gods word.

The vital requirements of a good daily walk.

1. God's will for you as a young Christian is to \_ \_ \_ \_ into spiritual maturity.

***Ephesians 4:14,15***; ***1 Peter 2:2***; ***2 Peter 3:18***

1. There are a number of essential requirements for PHYSICAL GROWTH and there are

some essential requirements for SPIRITUAL GROWTH. This study will deal with TWO vital things you need for a daily walk with the Lord. ***John 3:6***

Bible Study

(God talks to me)

***2 Timothy 3:16,17***

***John 6:63***

God

Me

Prayer

(I talk to God)

***Romans 8:26,27***

***1 Thessalonians 5:17***

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WHEN SHOULD I WALK WITH GOD?

1. In actual fact our walk with the Lord needs to be constant.
2. Look up: ***Joshua 1:8***

Joshua's command was that God's Word would not \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ from the mouth of God's people day and \_ \_ \_ \_ \_. See also: ***Deuteronomy 6:6-9***

Look up: ***1 Thessalonians 5:17***

Here we are bid to pray without \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.

1. Nevertheless, in our busy schedules of daily life, it is necessary for a Christian

to set aside a DEFINITE TIME EACH DAY for a devotional walk with the Lord.

1. Look up: ***Daniel 6:10*** How many times did Daniel pray each day? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Look up: ***Acts 17:11*** How often did the Berean Christians read the Word of God? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ***2 Timothy 2:15***
3. There is no prescribed time for your daily devotions - the important thing is that you set a time aside.

It may be early in the morning...

It may be after the family has left home for the day ...

It may be during an undisturbed lunch break...

It may be when the family have gone to bed...

Privately, between you and the Lord - *Make a decision! Make it your decision! Then Stick to it!*

Having considered my family, my duties, and my usual activities in the light of God' clear command, with His help, I now promise the Lord that I will take my relationship with Him more seriously by giving Him the Honor He deserves in my life. I will do better before Him to show Him that I indeed love Him and want to talk to Him, and have a relationship with Him. With my hand.

My signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Today’s date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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How should I walk with God?

Now that you have set aside a definite time for devotions, remember that good habits are hard to form. Ask the Lord to help you keep this one vital appointment. If you fail, don't quit - there's always the next day to re-start.

1. One way could be to divide your time roughly into thirds.

1/3 - for Bible reading

1/3 - for thinking about what God has said (*meditation*)

1/3 - for prayer

Don’t be discouraged. The idea is to get to know the Lord and become comfortable talking with Him and believing in Him. You will get to the point where time does not matter to you when fellowshipping with Him and sometimes (because of the enemy and sin) it will be very hard talking to Him, but don’t quit, be faithful. You will not regret it. This time, must be deliberately reserved, conscientiously kept, and valiantly defended against the attacks of the Devil. He hates you talking with the Lord as much as He hates that Book! (God’s word) Be strong!

1. Make ***Habakkuk 2:1*** your motto!

Some rules for Bible study.

1. Begin with a short prayer, asking the Lord to teach you.

Look up and write out ***Psalms 119:18***. This is a model prayer for you.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Remember God means what He says and says what He means.

Take every word in its primary, literal meaning - unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“When the plain sense makes common sense, seek no other sense, or it all becomes nonsense.” ***2 Corinthians 1:12,13***; ***2 Corinthians 11:3***

MOVING AWAY FROM SIMPLICITY CORRUPTS OUR THINKING!

1. While all of the Bible was written for you, it was not all written to you, nor was it all written about you.

To help you understand a passage, try finding the answers to these 4 questions:

\*WHO IS SPEAKING? \*TO WHOM IS HE SPEAKING? \*ABOUT WHAT IS HE

SPEAKING? \*WHEN WAS HE SPEAKING?

~Always remember this: A **TEXT**, without a **CONTEXT**, is a **PRETEXT**! PSR. ~

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1. Have a definite Bible reading schedule.

If you don't, your Bible reading will become hit and miss -- and so will your Christian life.

1. Keep a notebook to write down truths, insights, and questions.
2. Mark your Bible if you like. Underline key verses. Write down other references in the margins. (If you do not wish to do this in your best Bible, purchase a cheaper one for study purposes.) Note: Not all pens are suitable, carful of ones that bleed through.
3. Treat the Bible as a personal letter from God, because it is! Read it ardently and expectantly - as a lover reads a love letter. ***Jeremiah 31:***3
4. Scripture always interprets Scripture. ***2 Peter 1:20*** Always interpret an obscure passage in the light of a clear passage. God’s word (when not manipulated) always comes together beautifully for the sincere seeker of the truth. Beware: God and His living word will not be made a fool of by anyone at any time for any reason.
5. You MUST resolve to obey the Word of God as you read it and study it. ***John 15:14***
6. When you cannot understand, seek help. You have a pastor who cares for you, and who delights in teaching the Word of God. Call him, listen to him, and then check the Scriptures to see if what he says is so. ***Acts 17:11***

Some teaching on prayer.

In your daily quiet time with the Lord, you will want to pray. A full lesson on prayer will be presented in Study #16.

1. What Is Prayer?
2. Look up: ***Matthew 6:5-7*** In your own words, tell what prayer is not.

Prayer is not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Look up: ***Matthew 7:7a*** The word “pray” simply means “to \_ \_ \_.”

Prayer is asking – it is the cry of a Christian unto God, the request of a child to his or her Father.

1. To Whom Do We Pray?

Look up: ***John 15:16***; **John 16:23**; ***Luke 11:2***

To “whom” should we address our prayers? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Nowhere does the Bible teach us to repeat ***Luke 11:2-4***. It is not the Lord's prayer. (Jesus never prayed it. It is a "model" prayer, meant for the “Jews” only. A later study.)

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1. In Whose Name Do We Pray?

Look up: ***John 14:14*** and ***John 16:24***. We pray in the name of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. What Things May We Ask For?

***Matthew 6:11***: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***James 1:5***: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***2 Thessalonians 3:1***: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***Acts 4:29***: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***Psalms 34:4***: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***Psalms 119:18***: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***Psalms 119:133***: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

There are many other things we can pray for; the above are some examples. As a suggestion you could try this below, but time with the Lord will smooth things out. Don’t worry about it.

* Begin your prayer by thanking God for blessings.
* In the middle, pray for others and their needs.
* At the end, pray for yourself and your needs.

1. Keep an On-Going Prayer List.
2. Keep a prayer list with your Bible. On it write down any things people may ask of you - special family needs, church needs, and the special requests other Christians may share with you.

1. Don't forget to write down the answers as they come – that’s a blessing every time.

READING ASSIGNMENT: Read: ***Matthew Chapter 6***.

MEMORIZATION:

Review all of the memory verses to date: ***John 1:12***; ***1 John 5:11,12***; ***Psalms 119:11***; ***Hebrews 10:25***

Daily Walk – Don’t *worry* about a daily walk, the Holy Ghost and the word will teach you how, ***JUST HAVE ONE***! Thank you for honoring your Lord by studying His wonderful word! Amen.

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