

The Habit of Learning

August 20, 2017

Psalm 63:1-8

O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; your right hand upholds me.

Psalm 63:1-8

As a Christian 1 of 2 things is true, either I am growing in my relationship with the Lord (closer to Him) or I am not (growing further away from Him). Both can't be true and won't be true and there is no neutral ground for the life of a Believer.

Therefore, I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27

We must realize there is "work" involved in our relationship with God. He saves us 100% and then we must discipline ourselves to grow in that relationship.

Doctors do this, athletes do this, good students do this, good workers do this, driven people do this and people that have a goal (end or desire) in sight do this.

Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results.

We have watered down the Gospel by saying that eternal life is going to heaven, escaping hell and living forever with the "man upstairs." It's no wonder that many Christians walk around with less than the spirit-filled life if this is all eternal life is to them. Thankfully, Scripture gives us a clear definition of eternal life in John 17:3, "*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*" Eternal life includes escaping hell and going to heaven but it's so much more. It is truly walking and knowing God in the here and now. It is having fellowship with Him. Do you have that for this is eternal life?

1) What do I hunger for?

What drives you? What gets you going? What pushes you? Is it you have to, you want to, you better?

Last week we said if we want to know what's important, just evaluate how we spend our time and our money.

No one has to remind me to eat. My physical hunger drives me to eat!

The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, but the stomach of the wicked shall be in want. **Proverbs 13:25**

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. The person who labors, labors for himself, for his hungry mouth drives him on. **Proverbs 16:25-26**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Matthew 5:6

We hunger (selfish desire) to be made much of, be made known and to be made important, may our desire be for Jesus.

God Himself is the Gospel.

2) Am I content to hunger for anything other than the Lord and growth in Him?

Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. **Matthew 19:16-22**

For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. **Jeremiah 2:13**

Remember, God’s Word tells us that sin is fun for a season. (Hebrews 11:25)

3) Am I a learner?

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. **2 Timothy 2:15-17**

School and learning!

4) How am I being intentional about my growth (learning)?

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. **Matthew 5:13**

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. **Ezra 7:10**

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear. **1 Peter 3:13-15**

Personal time with the Lord (devotions), Bible studies (personal and men’s and ladies), Sunday school, daily church devotions, Right Now Media, Wednesday night, prayer life, etc.

Prayer Focus:

I will commit to be a learner.

I will be intentional about learning and walking with God.

I will have others hold me accountable.