

THE OLD PATHS

Volume 23, Issue 48

January 29, 2017

“7 Things That Will Help You Grow Spiritually”

Grover Stevens

1. LIVE and WORK to reach others each day as if you knew the world was going to come to an end next Sunday night. Think of that urgency and priority (II Pet. 3:1-12)!

2. BE AS ENTHUSIASTIC about the church and its services as you would be if there were overflowing crowds each time. Think of the interest, anticipation, and excitement of an overflow crowd!

3. COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS. Make a list of the things you are thankful to God for and thank Him for them one by one, as you pray in your closet. This will help you to be grateful (Phil. 4:6). It will also help you to realize your dependence upon God (Acts 17:24-28; Jn. 15:5).

4. MAKE AND MAINTAIN A LIST OF YOUR FAULTS. In addition, pray for forgiveness and help to overcome faults as you truly strive to overcome them. This will help us see that we are really not as good as we think we are, and how very much we really need Christ for Savior. It will also help you to sympathize with the faults of others (Jas. 5:16; Gal. 6:1).

5. KEEP A QUIET TIME. Set aside thirty minutes every day to spend with God in prayer, Bible study, and meditation. If you really love someone or a game, you want to spend some time with them. Just so, if you truly love God, you want to spend some time alone with Him (Ps. 1:2; I Thess. 5:17; Lk. 18:1). First century Christians kept an “hour of prayer” (Acts 3:1).

6. VISIT SOMEONE FOR CHRIST EACH WEEK. Visit some member you do not know very well; or a sick person; or a visitor to our services; or a weak member who needs encouragement; or someone who needs to become a Christian.

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).

7. REACH ANOTHER PERSON. Conduct a Bible class in your home once a month and invite your relatives, friends, and neighbors to attend. The preacher or elders will assist you if you want them to (Matt. 5:12-15; Jas. 5:20; Dan. 12:3). Before we think all of these suggestions are overwhelming, or impossible to obtain, remember that there are 168 hours in a week. If you were to attend Bible study, morning worship, and evening worship on Sunday, and Bible study on Wednesday, and 30 minutes of Bible reading, prayers and meditation, six days a week, and conduct an hour-long Bible study once a month, you would be giving God less than 10 hours a week.

Editor's Note: Brother Grover Sevens passed from this life in February of 1997. I knew him for many years, and was benefitted in knowing him and hearing him preach the gospel of Christ in its purity and strength. I encourage everyone to read the words of this article and take these Biblical suggestions to heart. They are as badly needed today as they were when he first penned them. There is a dire need for spiritual growth (II Pet. 3:18). Yet, men sometimes forget that spiritual growth demands a conscious decision and conscious actions to develop ourselves in the way God wants. The Hebrew Christians were rebuked for not growing as they should (Heb. 5:12-14). Therefore, let us learn from that example, and let us be people who are growing spiritually and striving for growing closer to God every day. God promised as we "draw nigh" to Him, He will "draw nigh" to us (Jas. 4:8). Can we think of anything better than this? Therefore, let us determine that we will grow spiritually, drawing closer to God, and looking forward to Heaven one day. Let us be like the faith heroes of Hebrews 11:16, who "*desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*" Certainly, brother Stevens' article encourages us to do this very thing! -JJ

Missing Services

Joel Raulerson

I remember my grandfather telling me a number of years ago, about an elderly gentleman who had an accident while farming. His tractor had tipped over, pinning the man for two days underneath the tractor. The

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ..." (Jer. 6:16).

way in which the man was discovered was something that was reported by a few local news organizations. It was reported that members of the church he attended came and discovered him pinned underneath his tractor. What was the reason they sought him out? The elderly farmer, who was faithful to attend when the church assembled, had missed Wednesday night services. What does this say about us?

On one hand, we can ask the question, “Does it seem strange for me to miss services?” Remember, the reason some of the members of that congregation had gone looking for the elderly farmer was due to the fact he had missed a Wednesday night service. Is our attendance here that consistent? If we are following the pattern God has established, it will be! Hebrews 10:25 says, *“not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

What if you were to have a similar emergency? Would your absence be noticed? Or, would members here assume that you just decided not to come today because you were tired, or one of many excuses you constantly offer? Ask yourself, how many services have you missed in the last year? Can you honestly count yourself as a faithful, regular worshipper at this congregation? Some brethren seem to think, “So what if I’m just at services every now and then? If that’s the worst sin I ever commit, I’ll make it to Heaven.” Are you sure of that? The Bible says that all sin separates us from God (Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 6:23). The Bible makes it clear that we can lose our souls over just one sin (Acts 8:13-24). How many times does a person have to willfully miss to commit a sin? The first time is just as much a sin as the fourth time or the fortieth time, if it is willful sin (Heb. 10:26).

Another lesson we can take from this story is the care that the brethren show for one another. The Hebrew writer told us in Hebrews 10:24, *“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”* We should be doing this by attending services and encouraging one another. However, the brethren also showed concern for their brother when he was not at services. They had a concern for their brother’s soul and for his physical well-being when he was not at services. Do we have the same care and compassion? Whenever brethren are absent do we check up on them? Even when they give a reason for their absence, do we attempt to check up on them ourselves? Let us obey Hebrews 10:24 and show our

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).

love toward our brethren.



Spotlight On A Bible Verse: Romans 1:16-17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” The apostle Paul declares the power of the gospel in his letter to the Romans. This is the power of God to save all men. Salvation is not reserved for a select, predestined few, but for all mankind. *“To the Jew first and also to the Greek”* tells us that all mankind has the opportunity to hear and obey if we will do it. Let us thank God that we have this blessing. We have the opportunity to be saved and can look forward to Heaven one day because of God and His love (Jn. 3:16). Let us not hide this message, nor be ashamed (II Tim. 1:8, 12), but speak out and live the gospel every day (I Pet. 4:11; Matt. 5:14-16). Much good will be accomplished, including saving ourselves and those who hear us (I Tim. 4:16)!

- Jarrod Jacobs



“I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!”

Please visit with the Caneyville church of Christ....

Location: 103 N. Main St. Caneyville, KY

Website: <http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com>

Times Of Services...

Sunday: 10:00 am (Bible classes), 10:45 am & 5:00 pm (Worship)

Wednesday: 7:00 pm (Bible classes)

Other opportunities for Bible study:

“The Ancient Landmark” Radio Program airs Mon-Fri on 99.9 FM, WXMZ (10:30-11:00 AM) & 101.5 FM, WLBQ (5:30-6:00 AM)

“The Ancient Landmark” television program airs on:

www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994

Preacher/Editor: Jarrod Jacobs

Phone: (270) 589-4167

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).