

# Back To Basics (Part 3)

Sunday, October 30, 2022

10:30 AM

A couple of weeks ago I began a new Series entitled Back To Basics because I felt like the Lord wanted us to focus on the basics of our relationship with Him

## **The basics are where we start**

When we arrive at boot camp we have to start somewhere. We need trained, strengthened, conditioned, and prepared for battle. So they make us exercise, they teach us things we will need to know, they build our strength and endurance.

In our relationship with Christ, we need to learn, we need to grow, we need to strengthen our faith

## **The basics are the foundation upon which we build**

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 (NLT)

10 Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

Matthew 7:24-27

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

## **The basics are essential to our continued life, health and growth**

When a baby is born, they need the basics of food, water and attention to survive. This doesn't change with time. Though we grow and learn to do things for ourselves, we still need the basics for life, health, and growth.

## **Key Texts:**

Hosea 6:1-3 (NLT)

1 "Come, let us return to the Lord.

2 ...so that we may live in his presence.

3 Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him.

Hosea 10:12

12 Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.

We also considered the word of the Spirit to the Church in Ephesus found in Revelation Chapter 2

Revelation 2:4-5

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.

The Basics Begin by **UNDERSTANDING** that It's all about having a **RELATIONSHIP** with Jesus!

- IT'S A TRANSFORMING RELATIONSHIP
- IT'S A PASSIONATE RELATIONSHIP
- IT'S A PRIORITIZED RELATIONSHIP

Getting Back to Basics means **SUBMITTING** to the fact that **Spiritual TRAINING and EXERCISE** are required.

It can be difficult, it can be challenging, there are days we don't want to do it... but it is for our benefit.

The basics of Spiritual Training and Exercise come from...

## 1. The Bible...

- Feeds us
- It is our training manual
- It is our Weapon

### We need to...

- Read it
- Study It
- Meditate on It
- Memorize It
- Use It (Obey it, follow it, do what it says)

## 2. Prayer

Prayer is our line of communication with God. In simplest terms it is talking to God. But it is also listening. Without communication our relationship can't survive.

It Involves.... Matthew 6:9-13

- Worship
- Learning God's will and how He wants us to apply it on earth
- Provision of what we need - Need not want
- Keeping our hearts free of sin and free of bitterness and unforgiveness
- Protection
- Praise and exaltation of God

## 3. Attending Church

### PART 3

Getting back to basics means **RECOGNIZING** that **ENVIRONMENT** Is Critical

Let's consider our key texts one more time

Hosea 6:1-3 (NLT)

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2 ...so that we may live in his presence.

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4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.

Getting back to our illustration of Boot Camp as a picture to guide us through this series; I want you to recognize how **ENVIRONMENT** plays a pivotal role in Basic Training.

The recruits are separated from their old lives (even from friends and family). They are isolated from the influences of the world and given new schedules, new routines. Taught new habits. They are placed in groups and must learn to trust and rely upon each other. This is all done for a reason. If they were left in their old environments, they would never become the people they need to become in order to serve well and succeed in the armed forces.

#### Ephesians 4:17-24

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21 when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

### 1. The environment around us

Paul reminds the Ephesian believers that God had brought them out of their old environment and given them a new way of life. He told them to live within the new environment not the old one. That is one of the first things we learn as new believers, to change our environment. If we continue to try to live in the midst of the old ways and surround ourselves with people that live according to those ways; our relationship with The Lord will not thrive and may not survive. That's why Paul reminds the Corinthians...

#### 2 Corinthians 6:14-17

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they

will be my people.” 17 Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”

Proverbs tells us how foolish it is to try to have a relationship with God yet still maintain our old way of life

Proverbs 26:11

11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.

And remember our environment includes not just people we hang out with but those things we choose to surround ourselves with (Like the music we listen to, the shows we watch, the things we read, the cultural trends and activities that we subscribe to and participate in)

Remember the children of Israel who had been delivered from Egypt. They refused to let go of their old environment and instead chose to continue to live in the old one by fashioning for themselves a golden calf and indulging in sin as they worship their false idol (which by the way was a remnant of the idol worship they had experienced while living in Egypt)

Exodus 32:8

8 They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’

Exodus 32:21

21 He said to Aaron, “What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?”

## 2. The environment within us

Remember that our environment not only includes what is going on around us but also what is going on inside of us.

Ephesians 4:17-24

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Part of basic training involves conditioning the mind and spirit as well as the body.

Turning again to the wisdom of the book of proverbs (23:7) "*As a man thinks in his heart so is he*"

Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius said that "*We become what we think about. A man's life is what his thoughts make of it*" (And he wasn't even a Christian)

What kind of environment exists in your heart and mind. I remember being taught in Sunday School (Garbage in Garbage out). The environment in our mind is often created by what we allow into our thoughts through our eyes and ears.

That's why David said

**Psalm 101:3 (NLT)**

**3 I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar.**

That's why the Word of God gives us a prescription for changing the environment within us

**Romans 12:2 (NLT)**

**2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.**

**Philippians 4:8**

**8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.**

### **3. The environment in the church**

Finally, I want to talk about the environment within the church. As a believer, who wants to be obedient to the admonition to *not forsake the assembling of yourselves together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as we see the day approaching.*" (Hebrews 10:25); we need churches that have the right environment for spiritual growth and encouragement.

\*The attitude of the group is made up of the attitudes of the individuals with the group. In basic training they often work towards the goal of building unity and support within the group, using things like group punishment and group reward, moving recruits from the desire for individual achievement to group achievement

etc... They understand the principle that the success of the group is often dependent upon the success of the weakest individual

A healthy church environment is made of individual attitudes that desire to...

- Submit themselves to the Preaching, Teaching of and Obedience to the Truth of God's Word
- Support each other
- Encourage each other
- Build up and not tear down
- Work alongside each other
- Love each other
- Respect each other and the leadership of the church
- Allow the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Desire the Fruit of The Holy Spirit
- Fulfill the Great Commission