

Back To Basics (Part 4)

Sunday, November 13, 2022
10:30 AM

The BASICS are where we start

The BASICS are the foundation upon which we build

The BASICS are essential to our continued 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.

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!

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

The basics of Spiritual Training and Exercise include...

- The Bible...
- Prayer
- Attending Church

Getting back to basics means RECOGNIZING that ENVIRONMENT Is Critical

- The environment around us
- The environment within us
- The environment in the church

(PART 4)

Getting back to basics means PURSUING CONTINUED GROWTH

Our key texts remind us to...

- Press on
- Sow for ourselves righteousness
- Reap the fruit of unfailing love
- Break up our unplowed ground
- Do the things we did at first

All of these admonish us to pursue continued growth

What did we do at first?

We were taught to pursue growth in our relationship with God

One of the early lessons I was also taught as a young believer, is that I am either growing in my faith, or like water that has lost its intake or outflow, my faith will become stagnate. (Stagnation occurs when water stops flowing - Stagnant faith occurs when our faith stops growing) and like stagnant water, stagnant faith is unhealthy - smelly and a breeding ground for sickness and disease.

The Bible give us several prescriptions for pursuing continued growth

ADD to our Faith

Growth begins by simple addition

2 Peter 1:3-11

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What a list!

Are you pursuing (making every effort) continued growth (possessing these qualities in increasing measure) each day by adding...

- Goodness
- Knowledge
- Self-control
- Perseverance
- Godliness
- Mutual Affection

...to your faith?

King David, who was known as a man after God's own heart and a mighty warrior of the faith, also provides us a picture of stagnant faith

2 Samuel 11:1

11 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

MULTIPLY our Faith

As we pursue continued growth, we learn to move beyond simple addition to multiplication

Multiplication was one of the first commands given to mankind

Genesis 1:28 (NKJV)

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

What is true in the physical is also true in the spiritual

- Multiplication speaks of bearing fruit

That’s why John the Baptist preached “produce fruit in keeping with repentance”

Jesus reminded us that “a good tree bears good fruit.”

Matthew 7:16-20

16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Jesus emphasized our need to multiply and produce fruit when he cursed the fig tree

Mark 11:12-14

¹² The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³ Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ Then he said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard him say it.

Hosea says we are to

- Sow for ourselves righteousness
- Reap the fruit of unfailing love
- Break up our unplowed ground

In order to multiply we need to do all three of these things. And as we continue to break up our unplowed ground, and plant seeds of righteousness; we will reap fruit

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- Multiplication also speaks of Reproduction

One of the sure ways for us to grow in our faith is to begin to share it with others. As we share and teach about the things of God we come to understanding in a deeper way and it strengthens our faith

MATURE in our Faith

Another aspect of pursuing continued growth in our faith is MATURITY

Hebrews 5:12-14

12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 6:1-3

6 Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And God permitting, we will do so.

Though there are many areas of Christian Maturity that we could talk about, I want to draw your attention to Paul's words to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 14:1

14 ..eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

We know from Paul's letters to Corinth that there were many issues of the faith in which they needed correction. Paul wanted them to Mature and spoke to them in detail about the gifts of the Spirit and their need to pursue continued growth in this area.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

12 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.