

Back To Basics (Part 5)

Sunday, October 30, 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.

If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

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.

The basics of Spiritual Training and Exercise include...

- **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)

- **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....

- 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

- **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

Getting back to basics means PURSUING CONTINUED GROWTH

- **ADD to our Faith**
 - Goodness
 - Knowledge
 - Self-control
 - Perseverance
 - Godliness
 - Mutual Affection
- **MULTIPLY our Faith**
 - Multiplication speaks of bearing fruit
 - 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**
 - Moving from the milk of the elementary teachings to the meat of more solid food to meat
 - Training ourselves by constant use to distinguish between good and evil.

PART 5

Getting back to basics means we KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

Leviticus 6:12-13

12 The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it. 13 The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not quench the Spirit. (Do not put out the Spirit's fire) 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

The Old Testament typology represented by the command to keep the sacrificial offering burning combined with the New Testament admonition to not put out the Spirit's fire present a beautiful picture of our need to keep the flame of our relationship with God burning bright

- **The Fire represented the PRESENCE and HOLINESS of God**

In the Old Testament, the fire represented the active presence of God receiving the offerings presented on the altar. It was the key to their righteousness and ongoing relationship with God.

In our lives, the fire represents the active presence of The Holy Spirit in our hearts and our ongoing relationship with Christ who makes us right with God.

Just as the fire consumed the offerings that made peace with God, so the fire of God's presence in our lives burns away the old sinful life that kept us separated from God and makes way for the new life spring forth.

Is the presence and righteousness of Christ alive in you?

- **The Fire was IGNITED by God**

The Bible tells us that it was God who started the fire...

Leviticus 9:24

24 Fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown.

Likewise, it is God who initiated that flame of faith in your heart

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

When, by faith, you laid yourself on the altar and asked God to consume the sacrifice; He placed the fire of His presence inside of you

But it's not enough to have an experience with God we need an ongoing relationship with Him. In other words, it's not enough to have the fire started, we want to keep the fire going.

- The Fire was to be MAINTAINED by the priests

Romans 12:1-2

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- Ashes cleaned out and carried away
 - Disobedience and Unconfessed sin
 - Bitterness and Unforgiveness
 - Thoughts, Attitudes and Actions that reflect the old life rather than the new
- New wood
 - Submission & Obedience to His word
 - Worship, Praise, Prayer & Thanksgiving
 - Reading, Studying and Meditating on God's Word
 - Repentance and Confession of Sin
- Protection from wind and rain
 - Being separate from the world
 - Being careful about what you let in

- **God does not want the fire to GO OUT**

There is an interesting passage in 1 Samuel Chapter 3 when Samuel was just a young boy serving in the Tabernacle of God. The priests and the people of Israel had once again neglected their relationship with God. They were still going through the motions, but the power and presence of God was all but gone. In fact, it wasn't long after this that the Ark of God was captured, Eli's corrupt sons (who were priests) were killed in battle and Eli himself fell backward at the news and broke his neck. Phinehas' wife gave birth to a son and named him ICHABOD meaning "the glory has departed" in other words the flame had gone out

1 Samuel 3:2-3

2 One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

But I believe the commentary of the previous chapter was a warning that the Lamp was about to go out and something needed to happen. Similarly, The Spirit's warning to the church in Ephesus to repent or He would come and remove their lampstand was God's warning that something needed to happen

And it can... Don't let the flame go out... Keep it burning...

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

At the close of Paul's words to the Thessalonian Church to not quench the Holy Spirit, Paul reminds them that it is God who is faithful, and He will do it. The one who started the fire is faithful to help you keep the flame burning if you continue to surrender yourself to him and let Him do his work