

Choosing Wholeness as a lifestyle

Lesson #6

Scripture: Colossians 1:28-29 *“We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.”*

Introduction:

In *The Last Days Newsletter*, Leonard Ravenhill tells about a group of tourists visiting a picturesque village who walked by an old man sitting beside a fence. In a rather patronizing way, one tourist asked, "Were any great men born in this village?" The old man replied, "Nope, only babies." A frothy question brought a profound answer. There are no instant heroes--whether in this world or in the kingdom of God. Growth takes time.

William C. Shereos.

Transitional Statement:

Spirituality isn't something that is bestowed upon us at baptism, but it comes through much effort, experience, trials and trust. It is developed from a deep relationship with God. Spirituality increases as we help each other along, and as we become more aware of our dependence on God in this world.

Lesson:

I. Testing tools for the spiritual person

- A. Able to cope. Every job, every life has its stresses and we should be able to recognize them and deal with them....not let them deal us!
 1. Remember who is in control Isaiah 40
 2. Remember we are part of a team...1 Cor 12:14ff
 - a. Don't try to do it all yourself
 - b. Moses Father in law idea of breaking up the work.... Ex 18:17ff
 3. Spend much time in prayer and God's word
 4. Be humble...James 4:10
 5. Admit weakness and work on it....James 5:16

B. Hopeful

1. Anxiety and worry fade into the background as we stand firm on what we have believed in, knowing He is able to guard what we have committed unto Him against that day. 2 Timothy 1:12
 - a. Phil 4:6
2. Doubt, fear and loneliness are replaced by eager anticipation of the coming of Christ.
3. 1 Corinthians 15:19 *“If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”*
4. The message of salvation is one of hope...not despair.
5. Hope comes to fruition through God’s word, submission to Him, prayer and trust.
6. Hope doesn’t disappoint ...Romans 5:5

C. Involved with other people

1. Read Romans 12:9-13
2. Jesus constantly reached out to people.
 - a. He wasn’t tempted by the security of staying away from others.
 - b. He wasn’t a spiritual recluse.
3. He came to seek and save the lost
 - a. So He walked among men
4. He had compassion for people
5. He walked with them, worked with them, and even cried with them
6. He wanted to share His Father with them.

D. Open and expressive.

1. Approachable
2. Glad to receive questions
3. Readily admit when he doesn’t know something.
4. Transparent by all means

E. Sensitive and caring

1. Willing to walk a mile in someone else's shoes
2. To look beyond the moment of judgment for understanding
3. To reach out to people, while they spit in your face.
4. To pray for others....in deep care!

F. Unselfish

1. At the core of unselfishness is a paradigm that God will take care of our needs and even if we give it all away our cup will be renewed.
2. Unselfishness removes fear and replaces it with deep love.
3. Luke 6:38 says "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

G. Confident

1. Hebrews 4:16 talks about a bold confidence to approach God.
 - a. Not in self but through Jesus.
2. Fully convinced of what you believe Romans 14
3. Understanding your own value before God.
4. Understanding your enablement from God.
 - a. He has given us all things pertaining to godliness 2 Peter 1:3
5. Understanding that we have a belonging as part of the body
6. A sense of purpose.

H. Forgiving.

1. Peter asks in Matthew 18:21 "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"
 - a. To which Jesus replies "up to seventy times seven"....i.e. limitless times.
2. The spiritual person, forgives on the run as a reflexive action.
3. Forgiveness should be our first response.

4. And we should be glad to give it
 - a. As Christ was from the cross.

I. Disciplined

1. The spiritual person has a regiment of self discipline
2. Looking for God's discipline all around. Hebrews 12:6
3. Walking in a manner worthy of our calling...Eph 4:1

Conclusion:

We are soldiers in a battle for our lives. Spirituality collectively forms the armor of Ephesians chapter 6 that will carry us through to victory.