

ALWAYS ABOUNDING

19/02/17

*There are two basic principles underlying spiritual growth and development in Godly service (love). **MAT 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God (spiritual priorities), and his righteousness (free from natural obstacles); and all these (natural) things shall be added unto you. Putting God first (prayerfully) in both thought and deed, is an inescapable priority. The following verses cover two vital aspects of God's methods for our person development and effectiveness. This means that fellowship and the gifts are a priority for you.*

God's directions for personal development and Spiritual credibility. 1COR 1:7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: *These are the opening sequences for all true Christians. Paul went on to reveal the gifts of the spirit in chapter 12, the underlying attitude of their application... true love in verse 13. After this, a whole chapter (14), directing every member of the church, to focus on the basics of edifying one another and to provide blessing for the unsaved at the same time.*

1COR 14:1 Follow after charity (loving servitude), and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

&39 Wherefore, brethren (everyone, not just officers), covet (heated to boiling point) to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. *These words were spoken with the same authority that the salvation message was... no options or personal reasoning was to stand in the way of this basic attitude. None of the above is possible if fellowshipping together isn't a top priority. We won't go well if we continue to follow natural reasoning.*

Fellowship: bible examples for both the church and its officers. HEB10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. *How often did they meet? What was the underlying principle? Is the Lord's return nearing?*

HEB 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. *When fellowship is limited... sin and worldliness risk filling the gap.*

ACT 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; **45** And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. **46** And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, *This is the bible example, not our cultural or religious views!* **47** Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. *Effective spiritual choices had to be made and honoured, for these verses to have been recorded.*

All overcomers mentioned in the N/Testament had a life long commitment. Their approach was as equally important as the responsibility of their spiritual duties. If you put Godly values first, you family will gain far more blessings than any other way. You won't burn out if you top up your spiritual life more than you drain it.

***This is what experience has shown us over 60 years of running and developing the church, based on the above scriptures...*

Adults set the example for new comers and children alike (most children will not alter their fellowship pattern once it is established). Those who fellowship the most tend to be more spiritually mature and last.

Future leaders need to imitate scriptural patterns to develop effectively... those who are fully scripturally active, think and talk more effectively as well. They see their role as honorable and valuable to the Lord.

Long term survival is dependent on your ongoing priority choices. Seeking to use the gifts and to grow spiritually should always remain a lifetime goal, as all spiritual gifts are solutions to human weakness and failing which are always present. This cannot happen if you are not at the meetings... house and midweek!

The Holy Spirit is the great equalizer... *Whether you are rich or poor, young or old, male or female, educated or simple, outgoing or introverted; the Holy Spirit offers you the unlimited ability to access and use these gifts.*

1COR 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man (no limitations) to profit withal... *wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, discerning of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy. You and you alone, always have the choice to limit or exercise the wonderful blessings of the Spirit.*

JUDE :20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, **21** **Keep yourselves** in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.