

Recap of 11/6/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti

(Credit for the outline to Selwyn Hughes, Every Day Light: Water for the Soul)

Principle #7 – Do I share what God is doing in my life with others? John 7:37-39

We weren't meant to bottle up the truth when we do we become stagnant in our Christian walk (John 7:36-39). We must share the hope of the gospel with unbelievers, and we must share the lessons God is teaching us with fellow believers and unbelievers alike.

Principle #8 – Do I fellowship with other Christians? 1 John 1:1-10; Acts 2:37-47; Hebrews 10:24,25

A hallmark of the early church was fellowship. Isolation leads to stagnation. Fellowship is what we share with each other because of what we share in Christ. In fellowship we open our lives to another believer; we connect with another Christian though we may have just met them; we share a common bond. In the scripture fellowship is used of sharing a relationship (such as in the Body of Christ, marriage, partners in a business or venture, and with God); of sharing material goods with teachers and saints in need; and of sharing in other's deeds (negatively, sharing in the sins of others; positively, sharing in the sufferings of Christ).

Principle #9 – Am I a creative and outgoing person? Genesis 1:27; Exodus 35:31,32. Proverbs 31

Creativity is not a question of whether I am or am not a creative person, it's a question of how much of my creativity am I using? We must read, grow, take on new challenges. Creativity is a matter of resources/information, attitude, experimentation, variety, wisdom, and time.

Principle #10 – Do I spend time meditating on the Word of God? Psalm 1; 119:9-16

Gordon MacDonald defines meditation as "ruminating over spiritual food" or as Selwyn Hughes says, "when a Christian takes a text or phrase from Scripture and turns it over and over in his mind, the truth that is contained in that Scripture is fed into his spiritual digestive system and soon becomes part of his personality."

Principle #11 – Is a "hidden agenda" ruling my life? Philippians 3:13,14; 1 Corinthians 4:7

According to the Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:13,14, issues from our past have a way of making their way into our present and become a hindrance to spiritual growth. Selwyn Hughes calls this a "hidden agenda." A "hidden agenda" is "An unresolved issue from the past, a negative experience in your past which is influencing your behavior in the present." (Hughes)

Principle #12 – Am I pre-occupied with myself or with Jesus? Hebrews 12:1-3

When we are focused on Jesus we are freed from pre-occupation with self. When He is the center of our attention, we are 'Gradually and continuously changed into [His] likeness.'