



The Tri-Cities Edifier

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No. 1

Get Involved

A local congregation is made up of many members. Each member must strive to get involved in the work God has given us to do. Paul address this in Ephesians 4:15-16 "but, speaking truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him Who is the head— Christ from whom the whole body joined and knit together by what every joint supplies according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

Each member must do its share. Each member must get involved! The work God has given us to do requires laborers/workers. We are to assemble together on the first day of the week. For us all to do so we must have workers who prepare for the assembly. The building must be cleaned and swept. The Lord's Supper must be prepared for all to partake. The song books placed around the assembly (they do get shuffled around) The grounds cared for, light bulbs changed, the baptistery cleaned and cared for, class material purchased, teachers ready to teach etc. etc. There is plenty of work to be done just to assemble in worship.

We have the work of evangelism. We take up a collection every first day of the week. This collection must be used to carry out the Lord's will and work. It is meant to be put to good use and not stored away. Jesus made this observation "...Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" John 4:35

The world is filled with those who are lost in sin. Reaching the lost is a vital part of a congregation's growth. Determine to get involved

and reach out to your friends, reach out to your family, reach out to your neighbor and seek to bring them to Christ for their own salvation. As a congregation, we can support men who have purposely chosen to devote their lives to the preaching the Gospel. They need financial support to do so. We can get involved by doing more. We must get involved personally and collectively in the work of evangelism.

We have also been given the work of benevolence. There are fellow saints throughout the world that suffer hardships. These hardships become hard to bear alone. In Acts 11:27-30 we learn that there was a great famine that occurred around the world. The brethren in Antioch sent benevolent help to their brethren in Judea to help relieve their lack of food. What a wonderful example of brethren helping other brethren. In 2017, the Houston Texas area was hit hard with a hurricane. There was great lose and brethren needed help. Not just money but physical help. I recall also that in the mid-80's a famine hit Ethiopia hard. Brethren needed help and local congregations sent relief to help those in need. We must be willing to support the work of benevolence for this is a work which God has given us to do.

All of the things discussed need willing souls who purposely get involved. We learn from the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 that the Master knows which of His servants are profitable servants and which are unprofitable servants. His judgment of reward or punishment is based upon our action or inaction within His kingdom. Let us be active this year collectively and individually.

STACY

It's Not Just *That* We Hear, But *How* We Hear

By Jamey Hinds

Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.—Luke 8:18—

God seeks our loving obedience, but He's not a taskmaster who simply barks out orders demanding that we're then expected to *mindlessly* follow. If anything, Christianity is a thinking person's religion because "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17; and also read Romans 1:5 / 16:26 concerning the *obedience of faith*).

"Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with humility the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:19–22).

As Jesus said, when asked about his family wanting his attention: "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (Matthew 12:48–50).

7 Things That Will Help You Grow Spiritually

by Grover Stevens

- 1. LIVE and WORK** to reach others each day as if you knew the world was going to come to an end next Sunday night. Think of that feeling of urgency and priority! (Read 2 Peter 3:1-12).
- 2. BE AS ENTHUSIASTIC** about the church and its services as you would be if there were overflowing crowds each time. Think of the interest, anticipation, and excitement of an overflow crowd!
- 3. COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.** Make a list of the things you are thankful to God for and thank Him for them one by one, as you pray in your closet. This will help you to be grateful (Philippians 4:6). It will also help you to realize your dependence on God (Acts 17:24-25, 28; John 15:5).
- 4. MAKE & MAINTAIN A LIST OF YOUR FAULTS.** In addition, pray for forgiveness and help to overcome them as you truly strive to overcome them. This will help us see that we are really not as good as we think we are and how very much we really do need Christ for Savior. It will also help you to sympathize with the faults of others (James 5:16; Galatians 6:1).
- 5. KEEP A QUIET TIME.** Set aside 30 minutes every day to spend with God in prayer, Bible study, and meditation. If you really love someone or a game, you want to spend some time with them. Just so, if you truly love God you want to spend some time alone with Him (Psalm 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1). First century Christians kept an "hour of prayer" (Acts 13:1).
- 6. VISIT SOMEONE FOR CHRIST EACH WEEK.** Visit some member you do not know very well; or a sick person; or a visitor to our services; or a weak member who needs encouragement; or someone who needs to become a Christian.
- 7. REACH ANOTHER PERSON.** Conduct a Bible class in your home once a month and invite your relatives, friends, and neighbors to attend. The preacher or elders will assist you if you want them to (Matthew 5:12-15; James 5:20; Daniel 12:3).

There are 168 hours in a week. If you were to attend Bible Study, morning worship, and evening worship on Sundays and Bible study on Wednesday, and 30 minutes 6 days a week in Bible reading, prayer, and meditation, and conduct an hour long study once a month, you would be giving God less than 10 hours a week, leaving you 158.