

Homebuilder's Class

Personal Spiritual Development (PSD): Part 4

Developing Meaningful Communion with God as a Way of Life

Text: Mark 1:35 | Psalm 63:1

Introduction:

- Meaningful communion with God is essential to PSD. There can be no spiritual change without it.
 - Communion = having in common partnership, fellowship; to communicate.
 - No relationship thrives, grows, progresses, or develops without healthy communication.
 - We can no more isolate ourselves from communion with God and spiritually than a kernel of corn can lie on a brick and turn into a stock that bears thousands of other kernels.
 - I must have meaningful contact with the source of all life, God Almighty.
 - True PSD requires that meaningful communion with God becomes a way of life.
- I. The meaning of “way of life”.
- A. Not everyone was raised with the same way of life.
 - B. We need to arrive at the place of meaningful communion with God becomes like a second nature to us.
 - 1. Some things are natural for us.
 - 2. Some other things can be like second nature.
 - 3. Applied to seeking meaningful communion with God, I believe it can become second nature.
 - a. Though breathing is natural, under extreme circumstances we must labor to breathe. We must be realistic enough to acknowledge that, even when communion with God becomes second nature, there may be circumstances when more effort and labor are required for that communion.
- II. How can meaningful communion with God become a way of life?
- A. Allow a specific time and place for communion to become a habit.
 - 1. Seek God early. Mark 1:35 | Psalm 63:1
 - a. Begin with God's business.
 - b. Preparation/the need for nourishment.
 - c. Fewer distractions.
 - d. Your heart is less encumbered.
 - e. Biblical example.
 - a. Abraham—Genesis 19:27
 - b. Jacob—Genesis 28:18-19
 - c. Moses—Exodus 34:2
 - d. Hannah—1 Samuel 1:19
 - e. Jehoshaphat—2 Chronicles 20:20
 - f. Job—Job 1:5
 - 2. Daniel had a pattern or habit of seeking God 3 times a day. Daniel 6:4-13

3. Jesus instructed the disciples to pray so they would not enter temptation. Luke 22:39-41
 4. Do you have a time to meet with the Lord?
 5. Do you have a place to meet with the Lord?
- B. Be conscientiously aware of your dependence on God for PSD.
1. Matthew 5:3
 2. John 15:5
 3. Psalm 10:4
- Note: if we are truly convinced of this fact daily, we should then, as second nature, come to Him for sufficiency and for guidance, strength, leadership, etc. How dare we try to live a day without communion with Him?
- C. Be mindful of the provision God has made for us for meaningful communion.
1. John 14:25-26; 16:7, 13-14
 2. 1 John 2:27
- D. Live mindful of the fact that our relationship with God is that of a Father and His child.
1. Matthew 6:9
 2. Romans 8:14-17

PSD does not require deep theological study, for sure. However, most who fail to experience PSD do not fail because of lack of deep theology. Failure comes through neglecting or ignoring the most basic provisions that God has made for us to have meaningful communion with Him.