

# Four Essentials Of The Lord's Work

# Indifference of society: a destructive influence on Christians

- Most people do not care about their souls.
- Why should we?
- 1 Co.15:58
  - Could we improve?

Self-examination  
the most difficult  
requirement?  
2 Co.13:5

# Self-examination

- Willing to listen
- We easily see faults in others...
  - Lk.7:36-50
  - Jn.12:1-8
  - Jesus received the most criticism...
- Prov.27:7 . . . Mt.5:6

Teach

Preach

Lead

Hunger

# I. Powerful Faith

# Powerful faith must be a . . .

1. Personal faith. Not faith of parents...
2. Patient faith. All good things take time.
3. Prevailing faith. Satan wants to hinder us.
4. Passionate faith. Zealous
  - ◆ Phil. 1<sup>23</sup> For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a **desire** to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

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  - ♦ Lk.22<sup>15</sup> Then He said to them, “With *fervent desire* I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer”

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  - ◆ Ac.18<sup>25</sup> This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being **fervent** in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord . . .

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  - ◆ Ro.12<sup>11</sup> Not lagging in diligence, **fervent** in spirit, serving the Lord

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  - ♦ Ja.5<sup>16</sup> The effectual **fervent** prayer of a righteous man avails much.

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  - ◆ 1 Pt.4<sup>8</sup> And above all things have **fervent** love for one another, for *'love will cover a multitude of sins.'*

Are we enthusiastic,  
excited, on fire? (L-N)

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4. Passionate faith. Zealous
5. Progressing faith. Not content with past.
6. Programmed faith. Ro.10:17

Read little...believe little...do little.

‘As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby’

# How strong is our faith?

- 2 Co.5:7
  - When do we want the Bible?
  - Strong faith is seen in actions.

Wronged by neighbor. 1 Pt.2:22

Disaster strikes... 2 Tim.4:6

Lost souls... 2 Tim.2:2

I. Powerful Faith

II. Perceptive Prayer

## James 5:16-17

Lit., *prayed with prayer*

- Did not merely say his prayers.

Hindrances to answered prayer

- Ps.66<sup>18</sup> If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.

## James 5:16-17

Lit., *prayed with prayer*

- Did not merely say his prayers.

Hindrances to answered prayer

- Mt.6<sup>14-15</sup> For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

## James 5:16-17

Lit., *prayed with prayer*

- Did not merely say his prayers.

Hindrances to answered prayer

- James 1<sup>6-7</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.

# James 5:16-17

Lit., *prayed with prayer*

- Did not merely say his prayers.

Hindrances to answered prayer

- 1 Peter 3:7, Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

I. Powerful Faith

II. Perceptive Prayer

III. Personal Love

# 1 Cor.3:1-3

Duty without love = 0.

- Sign of spiritual growth: serve, obey, attend, etc. because of love...NOT mere sense of fear or duty.
- Great blessing: love work so much that you never have to 'work' again.
- Contrast: "Do I have to...?"
  - 1 Jn.4:7; 3:15
  - Mt.22:39

I. Powerful Faith

II. Perceptive Prayer

III. Personal Love

IV. Persistent Effort

## Gal.6:9 ... keep on!

- Some have talent, learning, skill, but no success.
- Others who lack these things, succeed.  
Why?
  - Persistence.

# Bible emphasizes persistence

- Lk.8:13-14, 50%
- Lk.11:5-8, 'of all the nerve!'
- Lk.18:1-8, desperation
- Ph.3:14, the extra kick
- 2 Tim.4:10, the one could not be moved
- Hb.12:1, the long distance call

