

Basic Truth for Young Believers
Stark Road Gospel Hall
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Topic 3: Communication with the Lord

READING THE SCRIPTURES

Communication FROM the Lord

General Comments:

- Read the Bible before praying and let God speak to you first. Mary sat at the Savior's feet and heard His Word. Luke 10 before He taught the disciples to pray in Luke 11.
- Remember the God primarily speaks through His Word, the Bible!
 - a. "To be filled with the Spirit" Eph. 5:18 is to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" Col. 3:16. The Spirit controls through the Word. John 16:13-15

I. Reading Scripture: (Includes study)

A. Why should you read the Bible?

- 1. Assurance:** "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life" 1 John 5:13
 - a. Also: John 5:24; Romans 10:17; Illustration: Nobleman's Son of John 4:)
- 2. Direction:** Learn the will of God for your life!
 - a. "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105 (Also: Luke 4:4; Proverbs 6:20-22)
- 3. Preservation/Separation:** John 17:16-17 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."
 - a. Morally: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:11: (Also: Psalm 119:9,101; Psalm 1:1-3; James 1:21)
 - b. Doctrinally: "They (Bereans) searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Also: 2 Timothy 2:15-17; 3:16;
 - c. Spiritually: "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" Ephesians 6:17 (Also: 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Matt. 4:1-11 e.g. of Christ in Temptation)
- 4. Communion:** (Get to know God and His Son)
 - a. ".. for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD." 1 Samuel 3:21 (Also: John 5:39; Luke 24:27; Acts 10:43)
- 5. More effective witness:**
 - a. 2 Timothy 4:1: "Preach THE WORD!" (Also: 1 Cor. 1-3; 2 Timothy 3:15)
 - b. Parable of the Sower: The Seed is the Word of God Luke 8:1
- 6. Source of joy and encouragement!**
 - a. "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full." 1 John 1:4 (Also: Psalm 1:1-3; 119:28; Jer. 15:16; Luke 11:28; John 15:11; Rom. 15:4)
- 7. Growth:**
 - a. "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." 1 Peter 2:2 (Also: 1 Jn 2:14; Luke 4:4)

B. How should you read the Bible?

1. Systematically: Develop a planned reading schedule. Set goals and keep them!
2. Habitually: "in His law doth he meditate day and night" Psalm 1:2
3. Prayerfully: "Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me Psalm 28:1
4. Expectantly: God wants to speak to you daily.
5. Obediently: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.." James 1:22-23
 - a. "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments." Ezra 7:10

6. Observantly: See Christ in every reading! Luke 24:44
7. Carefully: 2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
 - a. Analogy of the Puzzle! Notice the obvious.
 - b. Notice the 5’ws: (Who, When, Where, What, Why)
 - c. Notice repeated words and themes in a book.
 - d. Outline sections of books and chapters. (Paul and parchments 2 Tim. 4:13)
 - e. Determine the meaning or interpretations. Nehemiah 8:3-8; Deut. 31:11
 - Work line upon line. Isaiah 1:28
 - Commentaries and other believers can help. 1 Peter 1:20
 - Attend Meetings! God has given the some the gift of teaching!
 - f. Look for statements, comparisons, contrasts about Christ.
 - g. What is God saying to you!

II. Reflecting on Scripture: (Meditating)

- A. “Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them” 1 Timothy 4:15
 1. Meditate: means to take care of, i.e. (by implication) revolve in the mind:
 - a. First example is Isaac: Genesis 24:63
- B. The Lord Jesus spent time meditating on the Scriptures. Psalm 1:1-2
- C. **Scriptures you meditate on in the morning will come back to you during the day!**
 1. “My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, *it shall talk with thee.*”
 2. “O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.” Psalm 119:97
- D. In times of anxiety and insomnia, meditation on the Word is the best treatment.
 1. “When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.” Psalm 63:6
- E. It takes work to clear distractions from schedule and mind.
 1. “Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.” Psalm 119:148
- F. Meditation is essential for joy.
 1. “My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.” Psalm 104:34

III. Remembering Scripture:

- A. Repetition and Writing:
 1. Deuteronomy 17: Every king was to write out the law. (See also: Josh 8:34-35)
- B. Understanding and Use:
 1. Learn the meanings of verses so you can use them intelligently.
 - a. The Lord Jesus quoted Scripture at His temptation Matthew 4:1-11
 2. Begin with good gospel texts.
 3. Using verses (in prayer, worship, and witnessing) fastens them in your mind.
 - a. Put one verse on a card for the day or week. Text on one side, reference on the other.
 4. Verses you learn as a new believer will stay with you for life!

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”

Psalm 1:2

PRAYER

Communication TO the Lord

General Comments:

- Prayer can be learned. “Lord teach us to pray as John also taught his disciples.” Luke 11:1
- Excellent habit to develop when newly saved. See example of Saul in Acts 9:11
- Types of Prayer:
 - a. Prayer: A need. General word for all communication with God.
 - b. Supplication: Request, petition 1 Tim. 2:1 c.f. Luke 1:10 w/ Luke 1:13
 - c. Intercession: Approach on behalf of another: 1 Tim. 2:1
 - d. Thanksgiving: Philippians 4:6
 - We should always give thanks at meals. Acts 27:35; Matthew 15:36
 - e. Worship/Praise/Adoration: “Thine is the kingdom...” Matthew 6:6
 - f. Confession: “Forgive us our debts” 1 John 1:7
 - Forgiveness is to restore communication not salvation.

I. To Whom should you pray? “Our Father” Matthew 6:6

A. To God the Father: “Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you” John 16:23. See also Ephesians 1:17; 3:14

1. The vast majority of prayer in the Bible is to God the Father!
2. Keep the person you are speaking to in mind and try to be consistent in addressing Him. To begin with “Our father” and to end with “in Thy name” is not consistent.
We have no authority to pray in the name of the Father.

B. To the Lord Jesus: Acts 7:59, 2 Corinthians 12:8

1. No one ever spoke to the Savior calling him “Jesus”!

C. There are no prayers to the Holy Spirit in Scripture.

II. When should you pray?

A. Regularly: “When (not “if”) you pray.”

1. Develop a regular schedule time for prayer
 - a. Daniel prayed three times a day.
 - b. “Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud” Psalm 55:17
2. It is worth the sacrifice to get up early to start your day with God.
 - a. “O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee” Psalm 63:1

B. Spontaneously:

1. Paul preached and practiced spontaneous prayer: “Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 2 Timothy 1:3
 - a. We should live in a constant attitude of dependence on God
 - b. Some examples of spontaneous prayers: (Nehemiah 2:4; Acts 16:25)

III. Where should you pray?

A. Anywhere! Nehemiah prayed at work, Paul in prison, Daniel at home, etc.

B. Your “closet”: “when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret” Matthew 6:6.

1. Have a special place you go to speak to the Lord each day.
 - a. Daniel went into his chamber. (2nd story roof-room) Daniel 6:10

IV. How should you pray?

A. Reverently: “Hallowed be thy name.”

1. We must learn how holy God is and respect Him.
2. Show respect for God in every way you can when you or someone else is praying. Disciples waited until the Savior was finished. Avoid distraction and interruption.
 - a. Your posture: (Bowing head and knees)
 - b. Your demeanor and focus: (Eyes closed to remove distractions)
 - This is a habit that needs to be developed -- especially at meetings!

- c. Your language: Use the most reverent language you possibly can privately and publicly!
 - God is your Father but He is still Holy and deserves respect.
 - Ask yourself, "If someone heard me praying like this, would they know the person I am speaking to is great and holy?"
 - How you pray privately clearly shows in your public prayer.
 - Praying out loud at home keeps you focused and is a great way to practice for praying at assembly meetings.
 - Avoid vocal pauses ("Father") & clichés. (Vain Repetition) Mt. 6:7

B. Orderly:

- 1. Pray about the Lord's things and then yours. (See 6 petitions in "Disciples Prayer")
 - a. Speaking only about yourself is both selfish and boring. Prayer will be routine and dull if we only speak about ourselves
 - i.e. Don't be guilty of the Pharisee's prayer in Luke 18.
- 2. Prayer lists and journals are an excellent help!
 - a. Develop the habit of speaking about His concerns first. Read before praying.
 - b. Lists keep your focus specific and produce joy when prayer is answered.

C. Confidently: "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ"

- 1. "whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." 1 John 15:16
 - a. His name: Because of His work and consistent with His Character

D. Submissively: "Thy will be done."

- 1. "...if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us." I John 5:14
- 2. Prevents asking for sinful things elevates His will above our desires.
 - a. "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss.." James 4:3
- 3. We cannot expect answered prayer unless we are obedient to His Word.
 - a. "whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments" I John 3:22

E. Specifically:

- 1. Lack of specifics is a huge hindrance to an enjoyable prayer life.
 - a. "...ye have not, because ye ask not. James 4:2
- 2. All areas of life:
 - a. Physical/Material concerns: "Give us this day our daily bread."
 - b. Spiritual: "Forgive us our debts"
 - c. Social: "as we forgive our debtors"
 - d. Emotional/Mental: "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"
- 3. Nothing is too small! "in every thing by prayer and supplication.." Philippians 4:6

F. Attentively:

- 1. Learn to wait on the Lord.
 - a. God speaks through His Word while we are in His presence. Psalm 130:5
 - b. All three times there was a voice from Heaven, the Lord Jesus was praying. (Matthew 3:17; 17:5; John 12:28)

G. Persistently: Parables: Luke 11:5-13; Luke 18:1-8 "Men ought always to pray and not faint."

H. Confidently:

- 1. We must believe God is able to answer the specific prayer. Matthew 21:22

V. Why should you pray?

- A. The Word of God commands it: "Pray with out ceasing!" 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- B. Follow the example of the perfect man. The Lord Jesus prayed seven times in Luke's gospel.
- C. Prayer focuses you on your dependence on God.
- D. Prayer changes us. (Jonah 3) God sovereignly works through prayer.
- E. Prayer is the source of power for service.
 - 1. Immediately after praying, the Lord Jesus cast out a dumb demon. Luke 11:14
 - 2. The devil will do everything he can to keep you from praying. He knows the classic military strategy of cutting off the supply lines.

WORSHIP

Communication FOR the Lord

I. What is worship?

- A. Definition: To pay honor or respect. Worship comes from an Old English word meaning: “Worthship.” This implies that worship is a response to the character or conduct of the person receiving the worship.
- B. Synonyms: Honor, Praise, Reverence, Adoration
- C. Primary Old Testament Word means “to bow down.” The primary New Testament word means “to kiss the hand or ground.” Both words are used of bowing down to men, angels, gods, and God. Both convey the idea of bowing emotionally, physically, or both.
- D. Examples of worship:
 - 1. Negative: (to angels, images, or men) Deuteronomy 11:16; Romans 1:23-25; Revelation 19:10
 - 2. Positive: (to the one true God!): Exodus 12:17; Matthew. 2:11; 29:2; Revelation 4:10

II. Why can and should you worship?

- A. One of the RESULTS of the death of Christ: Hebrews 10:19-22 “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;
- B. One of the REASONS God saved you: Revelation 1:5-6 “..Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father..”
- C. One of the REQUIREMENTS of God: Matthew 4:10 “..Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”
- D. One of the REQUESTS of the Father: John 4:23 “..the Father seeketh such to worship him.”

III. Where do you worship?

- A. Not in a sanctuary in a tabernacle, temple, or building here.
- B. In the sanctuary of Heaven: Hebrews 10:19 “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.”
 - 1. Our worship rises directly into the presence of God in Heaven itself!

IV. When can you worship?

- A. Spontaneously at any time!
 - 1. Some Samples of when people worshipped:
 - a. In response to the Lord Jesus: Matthew 2:10,11; Philipians 2:10,11
 - b. In response to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ: John 20:28
 - c. In response to the revelation of the character of God: Exodus 33:10; 34:8
 - d. In response to the fulfillment of Divine promises: Genesis 8:20-21
 - e. In response to salvation and redemption: Revelation 5:9
 - f. In response to the glory of God in Nature: Psalm 95: 3-6
 - g. In response to answered prayer: Genesis 24:18,48
 - h. In response to material blessing: Deuteronomy 26:10
 - i. In response to God speaking: Joshua 5:14
 - j. In response to trials: Genesis 22:5; 2 Samuel 12:20; Job 1:20
- B. Specifically at particular times: At the Lord’s Supper and other assembly meetings. Worship and priesthood in the New Testament is primarily taught as an activity when the assembly is together. (see notes in week 6)

V. How can we worship?

- A. The POSSIBILITIES: In the New Testament, you can worship God by giving Him:
- a. The Presentation of your SELF: Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”
 - b. The Presentation of your SERVICE: Philippians 2:17 “Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.”
 - c. The Presentation of your SUBSTANCE: Philippians 4:18 “But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.”
 - d. The Presentation of your SPEECH: Hebrews 13:15-16 “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices well pleased.”

B. The PRINCIPLES:

	<u>GENESIS 22 (First mention)</u>	<u>THE LORD JESUS</u>
a. Priority:	Very Early in the Morning (vs.3)	The Son of Man <i>must</i> be lifted up. (John 3:14)
b. Purity: (separation)	Sojourner/ 3 days journey (21:34; 22:4)	Offered Himself without spot (Hebrews 9:14)
c. Humility:	The son God had given him. (22:2)	A body hast thou me (Hebrews

prepared
10:5)

- 1. Worship is not to put on a demonstration, preach a sermon, or inform God.
- 2. Worship is to give back to God what we have received from Him.

a) NOTE: If we have no worship we either haven't gotten anything from him or we are hoarding it for ourselves.

d. Specifically:	Thy son whom thou lovest (22:2) (i.e. not Ishmael)	Gave <i>Himself</i> (Ephesians 5:2)
e. Orderly:	Cut wood, arranged altar (22:3,9)	“Father, into thy hands I <i>commend</i> my spirit:” (Luke 23:46)
f. Willingly:		
	1. Worship often has a cost to it. To be a worshiper, it may cost us our time, finances, energy, and lives.	
	Isaac, whom thou lovest (22:2)	Not my will but thine be done (Luke 22:42)

**“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”
Psalm 29:2**

WITNESSING

Communication ABOUT the Lord

General Comments:

- There are two primary words for preaching the gospel in the New Testament. One word means to herald or publicly proclaim the gospel. Obviously, not everyone can do that. However, the other word is to evangelize or spread the gospel. Everyone can and should witness for the Lord Jesus.

I. The PRIVILEGE of Witnessing:

A. The CHOICE of God to involve you:

1. The Lord does not need you. John 1: 43 “The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip”
2. The Lord wants to use you. “He (Andrew) first findeth his own brother Simon..”
John 1:41

B. The CLAIM of God upon you:

1. Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

C. The COMMAND of God to you:

1. Matthew 28:16 “Go ye therefore, and teach (make disciples of) all nations.”

II. The PROMISE for Witnessing:

A. His PRESENCE: Matthew 28:20 Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

1. You are never alone. He has promised His presence with you when you spread the gospel.”

B. His POWER: Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me”

1. Pray for Courage! The Holy Spirit can enable the most timid person to witness.
 - a. Even Peter needed to pray for courage: Acts 4:29 “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word”

III. The PREREQUISITES for Witnessing:

A. Pity: Love them because they are so valuable and so lost. Mark 6:34

B. Patience for results:

1. The Lord Jesus waited over 30 years before he saw any of His family saved.

C. Persistence:

2. The Lord Jesus preached in Jerusalem, wept in Jerusalem, and was killed in Jerusalem. However, He instructed His disciples that “repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
Luke 24:47

D. Prayer:

1. Pray for opportunities to witness.
2. Pray for specific souls and their specific needs and when and how to speak to them.
3. Pray with humility because there will only be blessing if “God gives the increase”

E. Purity:

1. To lose your purity is to lose your power! Israel lost their power for God when Achan sinned. Joshua 7. Samson lost his power when he lost his mark of separation and devotion to God Judges 16:18-21

2. Be blameless in your testimony! Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.

IV. The PRICE of Witnessing:

- A. Physically: A burden for a soul can make you lose sleep. An opportunity to speak to a soul can make you miss meals. When Jesus went to speak to the Samaritan women, he was “wearied with his journey”. On that occasion he also was thirsty and postponed a meal in order to reach souls.(John 4:6-7,31-34; Also consider Mark 6:30-34)
- B. Emotionally: Rejection and disappointments can take a toll on a burdened saint. The Savior understands as he wept (loud sobbing) over the rejection of Jerusalem. Luke 19:41.
 1. Remember, your responsibility is to spread the word; not to see results. Matthew 13:3
- C. Financially: Paul made financial sacrifices to reach souls. 2 Corinthians 6:10.
- D. Socially:
 1. Witnessing is not the fast track to popularity. John 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.
 2. You may have to sacrifice time at social time with the saints to have family and co-workers over and witness to them.

V. The POSSIBILITIES for Witnessing:

- A. Look for opportunities! E.g. of Philip and Eunuch in Acts 8
- B. Create Opportunities: E.g. of Jesus at the well in Samaria. Put a Bible on your desk. Leave tracts and tip cards (With large tips!), send a letter to a family member, invite children to Sunday School, have a barbecue and invite the neighbors (with the Christians), give all your neighbors calendars or Seed Sowers,.
- C. Witnessing is a habit and exercise to be developed! Anyone can throw a pole in the water but true fishing expertise must be learned by experience.

VI. The PURPOSE of Witnessing:

- A. Win peoples confidence.
 1. “He that winneth souls is wise.” Proverbs 11:30
 2. The Lord met physical needs before spiritual needs. John 9
- B. Spread “the Word”. Remember, it is the entrance of thy Word that giveth light.”
- C. Preach Christ! Try to keep people focused on the basics of the gospel and the Savior.
- D. Share what the Lord has done for you!: Mark 5:19.
- E. Try to get souls under preaching. Preaching is God’s choice method for reaching souls. Evangelizing the gospel is a means of preparing souls!

*Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached (evangelized) unto him
Jesus.*

Acts 8:35

