

“LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP”

All of us, if we were honest with ourselves, would admit that we are not as proficient as we could be. None of us give our best effort all of the time. Many of us would freely admit that I could do better if I tried. Why don't we do better? Some because of laziness and preoccupation with self. But others because of fear. Faith is not synonymous with fear. Jesus told his disciples, “launch out into the deep” (Luke 5:4). We must have faith to launch out into the deep as Jesus demands. What are some areas where we need to go out into the deep, rather than staying on the shallow end of the pool?

BIBLE STUDY

Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). The Hebrew writer once noted, “...when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God” (Hebrews 5:12). Far too many of us want to stay in the shallow end of the pool when it comes to Bible study and have not launched out into the deep. The writer of Hebrews says that we must move on from milk to meat. Folks that have been members of the Lord's church for years don't know any more today than they did ten years ago. Paul said, “Study to show thyself approved unto God” (2 Timothy 2:15). When it comes to Bible study, we need to “**launch out into the deep.**”

POWER OF GOD

Far too many Christians doubt the power of God. They look to their own selves and their own wisdom for solutions. Paul said, “Finally be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 6:10). Again, Paul said, “...unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20). Paul told the Philippians, “I can do all things through Christ which

strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13). Many local churches struggle due to an inferiority complex. What we need to stop doing is doubting what we can accomplish with God's power. Let us “**launch out into the deep.**”

EVANGELISM

The great commission given by the Lord was, “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19). We need to launch out into the deep in this regard. People are hungering and thirsting for the word. We live in a country today where well over 80% believe in God and believe the Bible is the word of God. We need to get out and put that good seed in their hearts (Luke 8:5-15; Isaiah 55:11; 2 Tim. 2:2). Good prospects in any community are younger couples with children, folks new in the community, teenagers, family members, and friends. Seventy-nine percent of new converts come from being invited by a friend. I know it's sometimes uncomfortable, but the Lord says, “**launch out into the deep.**”

GOOD WORKS

Notice how Luke describes a woman named Dorcas: “...this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds, which she did.” (Acts 9:36) If most of my brethren were asked, “Are you full of good works?” most would answer, “Yep, just full of them.” Unfortunately, that is as far as many ever get, just full of them. Their good works never get out. Paul said, “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men” (Galatians 6:10). James said, “...to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). Acting upon opportunities to do good, or provide acts of kindness is not always as easy as it sounds. Sometimes it is not convenient. The Lord exhorted, however, to “**launch out into the deep.**”

Author Unknown *from The Encourager*

IMPROVING YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

Every person must set some goals in life. Goals are self-challenges, they are incentives and are used to give direction. A Christian must have clear goals and aims in order to “hit the mark.” Christianity is not simply a meandering through life with a guide. The faithful Christian will have the Bible as his source of living and his pattern for life. Every one of us needs to continually strive to improve our spiritual lives. This Improvement Requires...

IMPROVING OUR KNOWLEDGE IN GOD'S WORD. We must study so that we can “rightly divide” the word. This will give us information so that we can identify error as well as to know God's divine will for us. (John 8:32; 17:17; Psalm 119:11, 105)

IMPROVING OUR PRIORITIES. What is the most important thing in our lives? Some folk spend their time filling their lives up with THINGS. Priorities determine and identify just what is most important to us. The Bible tells us that “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21; Read Proverbs 4:23 and Colossians 3:1-7).

IMPROVING OUR EXAMPLE. Setting our minds to be good examples will help us watch where we are walking. What do others see in me? They should be able to see a faithful Christian (Philippians 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 11:1). Do they see someone who practices what he preaches? If I set my mind to be a good example I will watch what I say and what I do! That will certainly improve my spiritual life.

Improving our spiritual lives will cause us to “set our affections on things above.”

REMEMBER: Living for the Lord is the only WAY to Heaven!

Toney L. Smith *from The Encourager*

BIRTHDAYS

Janice Carter, 01-07.

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson; Steven and Debbie Schleif; Clara Scott; Tom Tucker.

Wednesday: Millie Robertson; Steven and Debbie Schleif; Clara Scott; Tom Tucker.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Curtis and Paula Stillwell are in California and expected to return on Monday. Ed and Verna Hanson are in Florida for their winter stay.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, January, 3, 2010 following our AM worship. All are invited to come and enjoy the good food and company.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, January 10, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 35; Sunday PM, 33; Wednesday PM, 25.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Colossians 3:15

Those To Serve

January 3, 2010

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Stanley Anderson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
PRESIDE..... Trent Thrasher
ASSIST..... John Dodson
ASSIST..... Steven Schleif
CLOSING PRAYER..... Chris Edwards

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Joel Nelson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jared Nelson
LORD'S SUPPER..... Trent Thrasher

WEDNESDAY 6th

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
INVITATION Jared Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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