

Rock Solid

How do I practice keeping Jesus first in all things?

Matthew 28:19-20; Colossians 3:1-4

Be a **GENUINE** saint – ‘Go and *make disciples* of all the nations, *baptizing them* in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit’

Be a **PRACTICING** saint – ‘*teaching them to observe* (put into practice) *all that I’ve commanded you...*’

- The **FIVE** practices for every Christian
 - ▶ **WORSHIP** – personal **adoration** of God 1 Chron. 16:23-31
 - ▶ **DISCIPLESHIP** – personal spiritual **formation** Eph. 2:16-19
 - ▶ **FELLOWSHIP** – spiritually based **friendships** Acts 2:42-47
 - ▶ **WITNESS** – sharing Jesus with **outsiders** 1 Peter 3:15
 - ▶ **SERVICE** – engaging in **ministry** to others 1 Peter 4:11; Galatians 5:13
- The **OUTCOMES** of practicing
 - ▶ **DEPOSITS** are made into your ‘Spiritual Bank’, so withdrawals can be made.
 - ▶ Your ‘Spiritual **WAREHOUSE** shelves’ are stocked and ready to order.
- **IMPLEMENTING** the practices Philippians 4:9; Hebrews 5:14
 - ▶ **CREATE** a personal steady growth **ROUTINE**; then practice, practice, practice...
 - ▶ Be **CONNECTED** – Seek out help! From **God** and other **PRACTICING** saints!

Life Group Discussion Questions – September 25, 2022

1 Peter 1:14-17 *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”*

DISCOVER

1. If you have been “raised up with Christ,” share when and how this happened.
2. Who inspires you in their spiritual disciplines? What is it about them that causes you to take notice? What fruit of the Spirit is evident in them?
3. What is the relationship between “learning” and “observing?” How can we teach new disciples to obey?

EXPLORE

1. Read Matthew 7:24-27, then Matthew 28:19-20. According to these passages, what is it that a genuine follower of Christ must be in the habit of doing? Discuss this in terms of “he who has been given much, much will be required.” (see Luke 12:48)
2. Pastor Phil identified five spiritual practices. Name them. Define them in your own words. Which one(s) are you driven to carry out? What does this say about the practices or actions that aren’t as evident in your faith journey? In what ways have you isolated yourself from these practices?
3. For each of the five spiritual practices identified, discuss the role of God’s word and prayer.
4. Personal adoration of God is a great way to start any day. Read 1 Chronicles 16:23-31. In vs. 28-29, the psalmist says that the people should “ascribe” things to the LORD. What things? What does it mean to “ascribe”? Why is this important in our worship of God?

EXPERIENCE

1. What deposits have you recently made in your “spiritual bank account?”
2. Which of your actions show that you are seeking after the things of God? Or do your actions reveal that you are paying only lip service to this idea?
3. What does steady growth in your spiritual routines look like? We are inclined to do what we want to do. What might you do when you eventually tire of being disciplined?
4. As genuine saints, we are sojourners traveling through this life on earth. This is not our home. Heaven is. For many of us who have traveled for an extended period of time, we have experienced “homesickness.” Are you longing to be home? If you aren’t, what might you do to foster a genuine yearning for “the things above?”

PRAY

Pray...Father God, being continually and actively engaged in living-out Christlikeness goes against my natural self. Being Christocentric doesn’t come easy at times, like when I’m sick or exhausted or emotionally drained. In these seasons, remind me of Your victories in me, that I might be revived, to be refreshed as I anticipate the next breakthrough You have for me. For Your strength is made perfect in my weakness. Amen.

Action...What is one way you can be renewed spiritually this week? Which of the five spiritual disciplines will you add to your regimen?