

September 2013



New Name Ministries

P.O. Box 11694 Fort Worth, Texas 76110

Lessons from Left Field

By Chuck Bittrick

The Four Basic Food Groups of a Healthy Christian Life

Acts 2:42 states: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." We know what else happens in the Book of Acts with the explosive growth of the church and the many miracles performed by the followers of Christ. I believe much of this is

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Please join us in welcoming our newest arrivals:

Michael Saia July 11, 2013
Kirby Anderson July 13, 2013
Doug Jordan July 25, 2013
Tom Boruch August 2, 2013
Raul Esparza August 8, 2013
Danny Nellessen August 22, 2013
Paul Tumminello August 22, 2013
John Mark Jewell Sept. 10, 2013

Pray that our recent graduates will walk in their God-given talents for His glory:

Mitch Williams July 16, 2013
Garó Malkhassian July 17, 2013



When Love Says "No"

In our desire to increase our capacity so men who are nearing release have a home, we have been searching for more property. After finding 2 duplexes next door to one another, we thought we were ready to double our capacity. However, before sealing the deal, oddities began to appear: refurbishing work by the owner was below standard, the roof inspection failed, and a level of vandalism in excess of what we felt would be safe for our men & home. We had a growing sense that God was telling us that this was not to be. Finally, the title search came back revealing multiple liens totaling more than 1/2 the value of the homes. Sometimes God's answer is "no", as He sees the end from the beginning and protects from things we may never know.

From the Father's Heart

By Pastor Jon Cordeiro

Don't Miss "IT"

I remember Joyce Myer saying not to worry if you miss "it", God won't. He will gladly take every wrong turn, distraction and dilemma and turn it into good, if we love Him. And how do we know, or show, that we love Him, by obeying His commands. If we are too busy loving ourselves, our opinions and our dreams and visions, He is willing to wait till we come to the end of ourselves and repent. Some folks think repentance is saying you're sorry or admitting you made a mistake, yet never identifying the root of the issue that caused the offense.



Without knowing what the mistake was, and confessing it to our brothers, we miss the opportunity to advance in spiritual maturity, wisdom and healing. Doing so, we sacrifice the Joy of our salvation for the preservation of our pride and fleshly motives; giving Satan permission to deceive us once again and pushing us further from the truth. Until we accept responsibility for our healing and spiritual growth by owning our stuff, we are stuck with what we got

and get what we've always gotten.

Not long ago NNM had to discharge a brother from the ministry because he was unwilling to receive correction, take accountability for any offense and hold others accountable for their wrongs. On the surface he seemed to be doing okay. He was taking care of his assignments and responsibilities, yet isolating himself, believing that doing is the same as being. When confronted, he chose to blame others and hide behind his hurts as well as God's Word. He never realized that repentance is the root of restoration, renewal and regeneration; the beginning of trust. We sorrow at his loss and ours, though we trust our Heavenly Father will continue to work in his life.

So brothers, strengthen your selves in the Lord! Be radical in your willingness to change and become who God has called you to be. Take risks that payoff in Kingdom rewards. Repent when wrong! Release yourselves from past hurts and present lies that are keeping you from moving forward and start enjoying Kingdom living to the fullest today!

Identity in Christ

By Pastor Jon Cordeiro

“Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.” James 1:22-24

So often, we connect our desire to be doers of the Word with the study of the Word, the memorization of the Word, and collection of “right” doctrines. But if we are willing to read beyond the much quoted James 1:22 we find there is an important dynamic that activates the hearing of the Word into the doing of the Word: our identity.

One of the primary issues we see men struggle with when they come to NNM is their identity in Christ. They may have a sense of their doctrinal beliefs and know their worship style preferences but they still are not grounded in the love of God, either for themselves or others (and frequently both). Prison life only perpetuates this orphan spirit. Self-preservation is the guiding force in the prison culture that can thwart a man’s spiritual growth.

Believers set free from slavery to their sin sometimes take the instruction of our Lord to come to Him as little children a bit too far; remaining babes in the Word and ultimately the works of the Kingdom. In prison, men are told what to do, when to do it and limited in the number of choices they can make for themselves. This environment shapes the mind set of dependence rather than interdependence. All too often we see men upon release pursuing independence rather than relational interdependence with those around them and especially in regard to their relationship with the Lord. Stuck filtering life through the mindset of fleshly self preservation they continue to “do time” even when released from prison. Not realizing that as Believers they’re called to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth, they continue to exist rather than truly live through seeking the Kingdom of God first and allowing it to manifest in their life. To do so, one must grow in the nature and the stature of our Lord through the working out of their salvation (applying what they’ve learned) as well as learning to hear God and obeying Him. This process usually involves others and clearly requires

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due to the lifestyle of early Christians. Let’s look at each one of these “four basic food groups” for clues to what will make our lives healthier and more reproductive for the Kingdom.

First, notice that they “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching.” Generally, we will find this in our Bible studies, Sunday school, and church sermons. We need a level of devotion found in Acts 17:11 where the Bereans eagerly received the message and examined the Scriptures to see if the message was true. When this examination of the Scriptures is done in a group setting, the discussion becomes dynamic as we allow the Holy Spirit to build one person’s revelation on top of the revelation of another.

Next, we find that fellowship is important to our health. This is not about just seeing each other in church on Sundays. It is vital to develop intimate relationships with true peers to uphold the high calling of Christ Jesus in our lives.

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a devotion to seeking the Kingdom.

Becoming a Son of God requires coming to the end of our old selves by embracing our brokenness. Not just being broken and sorry for getting caught, but repentant; realizing that the consequences of our sin separates us from His love and our power for living righteously. This separation leads to the death of who we’re created to be in Christ. Many struggle with acceptance of the gift called grace (God’s ability to do in us and through us what we’re unable to do ourselves), thinking that it’s for those who are better Christians or who have better understanding of His Word. This only cheapens the value of Grace and purpose of redemption. One’s personal repentance and relationship with the Lord deepens with recognizing that all sin is first against God. When we become humble enough to understand how ugly we have been (and sometimes still are) before God and how little we deserve His mercy, that’s when we can receive the truth that He

My favorite of the four basic food groups is the breaking of bread and not just because I enjoy a good meal. Reading further in this chapter of Acts we find that this breaking of bread was done in each other’s homes. We are most transparent in our own home. Where else do we let our guard down and chew with our mouths open, belch at the table or pass gas after a Thanksgiving feast? When we are truly known, we can be truly loved.

Finally, we have prayer. We pray in our “closet”, we pray corporately, and we pray for one another after confessing our faults to one another so we can be healed (James 5:17-18). When we are willing to be transparent before others with our weaknesses, we can be the recipient of fervent effectual prayer that avails much.

To close, notice that each of these four basic food groups requires an intimate relationship with other Christians. We are designed to be relational and only when in healthy relationships will we prosper.

still desires to make us His Son’s. His desire for a Father-Son relationship with us is only limited by our own willingness to submit to the process of trusting Him.

When we first say “yes” to the Lord we become as disciples, considered children of God called to be His servants. As we remain faithful in our following Christ, our personal relationship develops and we grow in Godly wisdom; we’re upgraded from servants, to friends who understand the Father’s heart. Then, through our baptism and following of the Holy Spirit, we become Sons, circumcised of heart. As co-heirs with King Jesus we no longer fight battles in our flesh, but standing firm, wearing the armor of God, we exercise our authority over those things under His dominion, for His glory!

As always...

We appreciate your continued prayers and financial encouragement for this ministry. Our current needs include a new van and car, financial support for administrative staff and 2 additional homes for the many men we are expecting to receive in the next 6 months.