

# FIVE POINTS TO OBSERVE IN THIS TIME OF THE RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH

by Brother Brad Ratliff

As a Child of God, we can still get so many things going on that we will lose sight of what is the most important to God. It should be our desire to please the Lord and to add to our lives the values that our true Example, Christ Jesus, lived before us. Jesus was so dedicated to the work of God, that He didn't allow anything else to hinder Him in that endeavor.

Do you find yourself caught up in your decisions to fit into this life that you are building, that it is hard to put Jesus first in your life? Does your job and your family pull at you in such a way that you can only give a little your service for the Lord? It is going to come to a point for each of us that we will have to make up our minds on what is truly important in order to fulfill God's will in us.

There are briefly five points that I feel we can add to our lives in order to be the people which God can use in His Church:

1. FOCUS
2. DISCIPLINE
3. PERSEVERE
4. KNOWLEDGE
5. POSSESS IT

## 1. FOCUS:

Our lives are so full of choices that we have a hard time allowing a particular goal to take precedence. In order to make it work, we must focus on what is the most important facet of our being. Apostle Paul was dedicated for the work in Christ of the Father. Apostle Paul knew it was his ministry to lay the foundation to build the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 3:10-11). Apostle Paul had a focus in his life and it was:

*Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

If God has drawn us and chose us to restoration, then we need to keep our focus on the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus! So many regrettably in their walk with the Lord focus on the nonessentials instead of focusing on the essentials. The nonessentials doctrines have been allowed to divide God's people. Jesus said:

*Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*

So keep our head up and your eyes focused on the goal.

## 2. DISCIPLINE:

Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7 is what Jesus gave us to understand what it takes to be in the Body of Christ. Apostle Paul then works in the same vein with 1Corinthians 13 in which we should pattern our life. I believe that if we want to live our life pleasing to God day to day individually to work in the Body of Christ is what Apostle Paul showed us in 1Corinthians 13. Jesus gave us a pattern of how to work in the Body of Christ in Matt. 5, 6 and 7. So we must discipline our lives in the Holy Ghost to pattern our life in the great patterns before us.

In accord with patterning our life unto Christ is done through measurement. In everything pattern things must be measured. God gave David the measurements of what the Temple should be patterned too. Even the alter God gave the pattern and measurements in the sacrifices.

*Ephesians 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

*Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

*Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

In the things built there is a pattern and measurements which have discipline; meaning you cannot measure the pattern short or too long, but just right.

### **3. PERSEVERE:**

This subject make us feel we cannot do it and we begin to back off from this great challenge. If God has chosen us to do something and we sincerely seek to do it, then it can be done. Why? Because God would not set us up to fail. Perseverance is very important because we will defeat ourselves in allowing our minds to tell us we can't live a life unto Christ.

We have to make up our minds and refuse to allow our own sinful will to defeat us. We won't be able to do it over night, but from day to day. It starts with the heart, and we will find changes beginning to take place in our hearts. After a while, we will find that the things which tempted us so much before become less tempting and with the help of the Lord, our appetite begins to change. The only way you can overcome sin and persevere is in the Holy Ghost. It takes the power of God to defeat the flesh. Your will power will not defeat the flesh, it takes the Spirit to defeat the flesh.

*Matt. 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

*Mark 13:13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

*2Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

The greatest sin is not as much when you fall, it's when you don't get back up and go on with God.

### **4. KNOWLEDGE:**

Taking time to study the Bible as it is very necessary. We should never tell those seeking truth, that we believe or do something because the church or pastor say we should do it. It should be said that we do things that we know are required or commanded through the word of God.

Even more important, as we study the scriptures, we find what is important to the Lord and therefore, what should be important to us. When we garner the wisdom in God it takes the knowledge to put it in action and to know how to respond. How to have truth in God work in your life.

*2Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

To have the knowledge of how to walking in the light and to be as the new man that is in Christ.

*Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

*11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

*12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*

*13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

*14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*

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

Isaiah highlighted from God the need of knowledge as the Lord said:

*Isaiah 5:13 Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.*

It is vital that we so not allow ourselves to circle the mountain again or wonder through the dessert for another 40 years. We need to apply the knowledge that God has given us.

### **5. Possess It**

Seize this opportunity that the Lord has given you. The children of Israel were told that they could possess that land of milk and honey in numerous scriptures such as:

*Deuteronomy 1:21 Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged.*

There are a lot of things that man will allow himself to be possessed in or with. It could plainly said as the Lust of the eye, lust of the flesh and the pride of life. However, God wants us to seize the opportunity given in our calling of our life and work he has chosen for us to do, to be holy and acceptable unto God working in His perfect will.

*1Thessalonians Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.*

*2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.*

*3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

*4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

We must make our body the Temple of the Lord! Sis Burns wrote a song, We are more than able to possess the land!