

## Six Things Most Needed In The Church

1. **The conversion of the members.** The new birth consists of more than baptism. One has to be born of the Spirit and water. Those of us who have been baptized must have been led to believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Lord of our life. So many Christians seem to take a casual approach to Christianity. Conversion is, in reality, a matter of surrender of one's life and commitment to Jesus Christ as the Lord of ourselves.
2. **Regular Attendance.** Yes, it takes more than attendance to be a Christian, but there is no way to be a Christian and develop the Christ-like life without regular worship and Bible study.
3. **Sanctification.** There must be a clear-cut distinction between Christians and the world. The meshing of the church with the world is one of the greatest problems facing the twenty-first century.
4. **Liberality.** The Lord's people are learning more and more about sacrifice and generosity. For the first time in our modern history, churches are planning big things in the name of the Lord. It is not special contributions that will make liberal givers in the long run. But it is the commitment of regular, weekly, giving-as-prospered contributions that the church needs to develop liberality.
5. **Unity.** Many congregations are marred by schism, faction, and disharmony. The church must believe the same thing and work for the same goals. The work of the church must be so challenging that they require the unity of all to succeed.
6. **Informed leadership.** Leaders must be first of all committed to what the Bible says. Leaders must also know the people. They need to know how to lead and where to go. It is not so much "who's getting to run the church" as it is seeking to give preeminence to God. - Gus Nichols (deceased)

*"So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed." (Acts 19:20)*

- House to House/Heart to Heart -

## PRAYER

If Jesus felt the need to pray to the Father, surely we need God's help in our own lives. God knows our needs even before we ask, but still He wants us to ask (Matt 6:8); and Jesus tells us "that men always ought to pray" (Luke 18:1). James wrote that the fervent prayer of a righteous man does much good (James 5:16).

A prayer does not need to be long nor eloquent to be pleasing to God. It is to simply come from our heart as we humbly talk to our God and Creator. It was the simple and sincere prayer of the publican that was accepted by God, not the self-praising prayer of the Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14).

Prayer is to be directed to God the Father, as Jesus illustrated in teaching His apostles to pray (Matt 6:9), and in the name of Jesus (John 14:13). Sometimes we get "stage fright" when asked to pray in public. But it helps to know that God is our "audience" and not those around us.

"Father, help us all to pray often with sincere hearts for we need Your help every moment of the day. In Jesus name, amen."

- John K. Wills, Owingsville church of Christ Owingsville, KY (via *Bulletin Digest*) -

People who follow Christ lead others in the right direction.

## News & Notes

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.**

**PANTRY:** Oatmeal (round container).

**SICK & SHUT-IN: Weirton Medical:** Debbie Waite (Colon cancer - Stage 2). **UPMC-Presbyterian, Pittsburgh:** Keith McClung (suffered a stroke); Peggy Linger (suffered a stroke). **At Home:** Beulah Walker, Lois Hissom, Becky McKitrick, Nancy Cox, Mike West, David Strum (Karen's husband), Jim Hadley, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432. **Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **In Indiana:** Bill Miller (Prostate cancer). **Ruby Memorial Hospital (ICU), Morgantown, WV:** Sharon Beck. Home address: 807 Camden Ave., Weston, WV 26452.

## For Me — He Died for Me!

Ernest S. Underwood

Think with me for a moment. What is the most wonderful thing anyone ever did for you? Many of us would remember the loving hand of a mother, the kindness of a father, the fellowship of a close friend. Who can argue that when our companion agreed to take us for life that such was a good and wonderful thing?

Yet, as great and wonderful as these things may be, there is something even greater and far more wonderful. We find what that is as we read Hebrews 2:9. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone." Listen to it again - He tasted death for everyone. He didn't just die for selected ones, He died for us all. Also, He died that we might have "redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7). This is a gift that no other could ever give. It could only be given by the sinless Son of God, the only One qualified to offer Himself. What does He ask in return? He tells us: "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). He is a friend to you. Are you a friend to Him? Hear Him again in John 15:14: "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you." Are you doing so? - *Gospel Gazette online*

*I gave My life for thee, My precious blood I shed,  
That thou might'st ransomed be, and quickened from the dead.  
I suffered much for thee, more than thy tongue can tell,  
Of bitterest agony, to rescue thee from hell.*

- Frances R. Havergal -

**QUESTION LAST WEEK:** What do we do everyday, but spelled backwards is something we hate? It has 4 letters. **Answer: LIVE**