

Handout -- Thoughts On “Principles Of Maturity”

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Foundation Building and/or Maintenance - Luke 6:47-49

God 1st -- *The Foundation* - Matthew 22:36-37

Love’s Profit – *The Backdrop* – 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 1 Timothy 1:5

Hope – *The Scope* - 1 Timothy 4:7-8

- 1) God first and foremost is the foundation and purpose of Christian life.
- 2) Love is the backdrop for all we think, say and do. Without love there is no true profit for the believer.
- 3) Life is best viewed with a scope of the hope. There is promise for this life and the life which is to come.

Principles of Maturity

Seek God 1st – the foundation & purpose

- 1) Pray – share your heart with God allowing Him to share His with you
- 2) Word -- read, search, study and meditate in the Word
- 3) Witness – speak the Word, teaching and preaching the good news of the gospel
- 4) Give – honor the Lord with your 1st fruits; give of your time and talents
- 5) Fellowship – spend time with like-minded believers

Live Love – backdrop that there be PROFIT!

1st occurrence of *prothumos* - Matthew 26:41 - (Watch And Pray) - “willing”

Chronological Occurrences of *Prothumos* and *Prothumia*

Strong #4289. *prothumos*, proth'-oo-mos; from G4253 and G2372; forward in spirit, i.e. predisposed; neut. (as noun) alacrity:--ready, willing, passion.

Strong #4288. *prothumia*, proth-oo-mee'-ah; from G4289; predisposition, i.e. alacrity:--forwardness of mind, readiness (of mind), ready (willing) mind, zeal, eagerness.

Secular usage: “passion at its peak”

Pray -- Matthew 26:41 - “willing”

Pray -- Mark 14:38 - “ready”

Word -- Acts 17:11 - “readiness of mind”

Witness -- Romans 1:15 - “ready”

Give -- 2 Corinthians 8:11 - “readiness”

Give -- 2 Corinthians 8:12 - “willing mind”

Give -- 2 Corinthians 8:19 - “ready mind”

Give -- 2 Corinthians 9:2 - “forwardness of your mind”

Fellowship -- 1 Peter 5:2 - “ready mind” (willingly serve/feed the fellowship of believers)

Acts 2:41-47 – Note all five principles in application in this foundational section of Acts

:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

:45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.

:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine

And fellowship

And in breaking of bread

And in prayers

And Fear (respect, awe) came upon every soul

And many wonders and signs were done by the apostles

And all that believed were together

And had all things common

And sold their possessions and goods

And parted then to all, as every man had need

And they continuing daily with one accord

And breaking bread from house to house ... with gladness and singleness of heart ... Praising God

And having favor with all the people

And the Lord added to the church daily

Rom 10:14-15 - Witnessing ... and the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved

A Good Minister Reminds the Believers

1 Timothy 4:6-8

Philippians 3:1-3

1 Peter 5:1-2

Start with the first ... Prayer

Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.

Additional Notes:

Regarding leadership -- 1 Timothy 6:3-12 sits at juxtaposition with Acts 2:41-47.

While reading the Book of Acts, note these principles in the lives of the believers in the early Church.