

SEVERAL HABITS

Pastor George Pearsons exhorts the congregation of Eagle Mountain International Church in Fort Worth TX that being strong in the Lord requires practicing good habits daily.

READ THE BIBLE

Daily Bible reading is a **must** if you desire to grow and experience the wonderful life that God has planned for you. Did you know that **your attitude is what will make this a law for you or a delight?**

Psalms 1:2-3, “But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither, and **whatever he does shall prosper.**”

James 1:25, “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, **this one will be blessed in what he does.**”

Prov.4:20, “My son, give attention to my words, incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes, keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are **life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.** Keep (or guard) your heart with all diligence for out of it

spring the issues of life.” See also Matt. 12:35.

LISTEN TO THE BIBLE

Rom.10:17, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

If you read the Bible out-loud or listen to good Bible teaching on tapes, faith will come, and faith is what gets the victory, according to I John 5:4. Daily listen to one teaching tape, or read one article, or a chapter in a good teaching book. If you genuinely feel like you don't have time, ask God to show you how you can do this.

SPEAK THE BIBLE

How to use your Sword and Shield is a brochure that may provide verses which you want to happen in your life. Put these on 3x5 cards or on a list for you to read every day. If you do it twice or more times a day, you will see results faster. For the importance of this, get my brochure about how faith works. It's called, *If it's God's will, why doesn't it always happen?*

Josh. 1:8, “This book of the law shall not depart out from your **mouth**, but you shall meditate in it day and night that you may observe to **do** according to all that is written in it. **For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**”

For more study on this, see my brochure called *What difference does it make what I say?*

THINK THE BIBLE

Phil. 4:8 tells us what we are to think about; things that are true, right, and lovely. In Psalms 101:2-3, David says, “I will set nothing worthless before my eyes.” Similar is Psalms 119:37. II Cor.10:5 tells us that we must control our thoughts. John 14:1 and 27 command us to not allow ourselves to be troubled or afraid. If you don't know how to do that, get my brochure titled, *How to use your sword and shield.*

PRaise AND WORSHIP

Psalms 34:1, “I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall **continually** be in my mouth.”

Heb.13:15, “...let us **continually** offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

Praise can turn bad situations around! For stories on that, read my brochure titled, *Praise God, Why?*

PRAY IN TONGUES MUCH

I Cor.14:4. “He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself.”

This habit can also help you receive guidance and direction from God. With practice, you can pray a sentence in tongues and then one in English, and it just could be the thing you need to hear from God!

GET RID OF EXCESS BAGGAGE

Heb. 12:1, "...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

In Matt. 7:24-27 is the story Jesus told of the wise and foolish builders. He said that the wise ones were the ones who **heard the Word of God and did it**, and the foolish ones heard but did not do.

If you don't want the storms of life to destroy you, then you need to be **doing what the Bible says to do**. The more Word you know, the more you can align your life accordingly, and the more you will find God is working and blessing your life!

My brochure called *Spiritual Growth* gives the characteristics of a mature Christian, and also the **steps to change**. Any habit can be broken or changed in twenty-one days. This has been scientifically proven.

DEVELOPING PRAYER-LIFE

Probably most Christians pray a few times to many times a day. This is practicing God's presence and working toward the instruction in I Thess.5:17 to "Pray without ceasing."

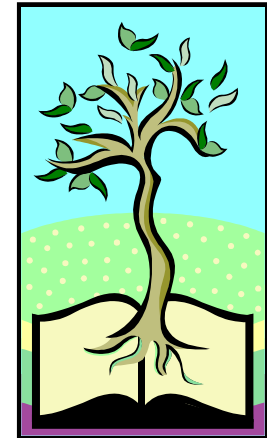
But another issue entirely is the Christian's closet time. (The King James version uses the word *closet* in this next verse instead of the word *room*. Matt. 6:6, "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.")

When I was learning to do this, I found that in the night (when I had to get up anyway to go to the bathroom) was the only time that Satan couldn't arrange an interruption or disturb me. But I resisted it for nearly a year. God would wake me up and I couldn't go back to sleep. I got angry, wanting to sleep! Once God told me, "Some people worship their sleep." Ouch! That worked!

Mark 1:35, "Now in the morning, having **risen a long while before daylight**, He (Jesus) went out and departed to a solitary place, and there He prayed."

Work on one habit at a time, and see your life take on new excitement and purpose! God will be at work in you as long as you do your part.

The Portrait of a Growing Christian



A mini Bible Study
By Cheryl Boone