

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

February 18, 2018

Moving Closer To God

What a great blessing it is to have a God who is near! He wants to be by our side 24/7. But He also desires for us to be near to Him. Unfortunately, not everyone wants to be close to God, at least not all the time (*only when we need Him!*). Jesus spoke about people whose deeds are so evil that they prefer the darkness rather than coming into the light (*John 3:19-21*). But, if you are not one of those, and I'm sure you're not, then I want to urge you to move closer and closer to God. This can be done in several ways. I'll list four simple ones. Anyone can do these things.

The most obvious way for the Christian to move nearer to God is by praying. Prayer is the privilege of speaking directly to God through Jesus our mediator (*1 Timothy 2:5*). So, if you want to develop a deeper spiritual relationship with God, prayer is the place to start. Just open your heart to him. Speak your mind. It doesn't have to be formal or elegant. The more you genuinely pray, the more you will love it. The more you love it, the nearer to God you will be. People of faith are people of prayer. You cannot pray too much (*1 Thess. 5:17*).

Relationships that are one-sided cannot be close relationships. As important as talking to God is, it is just as important to

allow God to speak to you. That's why reading and meditating on the word of God is vital. As David said, "*Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long*" (Psalm 119:97). No wonder David had a heart like God's. He and God were constantly moving towards each other.

A third way to move closer to God is through singing. God gave us music because it has a special power to inspire both the heart and mind (Eph. 5:19). And this is true whether you sing alone or with others. Having a spiritual song in your heart is one of the great joys of being a Christian. It's one of the things that makes Christianity unique. If music is not high on your priorities, try to develop it. Surround yourself with it. It's one of God's ways of drawing us closer to Him.

Another way is through being with other people who are close to God. Our companions reveal a lot about our heart. If you are drawn toward spiritual people you will inevitably be drawn closer to God. If you are drawn toward unspiritual people you will be drawn away from God (1 Cor. 15:33). That's one reason it's vital to marry a Christian, and to teach your children to marry Christians. (2 Cor. 6:14ff). That's why it's important to have Christian friends. That's why corporate worship and fellowships are so important. As we build relationships with spiritual people everyone grows.

Take advantage of these simple, but effective, means of moving closer to God. As awesome as God is, He made it simple to move closer and closer to Him.

— Joe Chesser

Try Harder

I'm convinced that many of us may not resist the temptation to sin as we should. It's not that we want to sin, for we don't. It's just that when temptation crosses our path, we don't fight it as though we were in a life or death struggle. We may resist, but the resistance is only token.

Not long ago, a friend of mine gave a lecture in which he raised the question, "What if every time we sinned, an ugly scar appeared upon our face? How much harder would we resist sin?" Good question. None of us would like to have our faces

scarred. Scars to our faces would be embarrassing, affecting our relationships and our behavior. I'm sure we would tenaciously fight the temptation of sin if succumbing meant a big scar on our faces.

You see where I'm going, right? Why should we fight harder to preserve our temporal flesh than we would to preserve our eternal soul? The fact that we can't see the scars sin leaves upon us doesn't mean they're not there. Friends, resist the temptation to sin, using not just a token resistance before you succumb, but a persistence that reflects a life and death struggle.

– Steve Higginbotham

Upcoming Lady's Day

The ladies at the Lakeside Church of Christ on Rita Rd. in Springfield will host a Lady's Day Program on March 17, 2018. The theme will be "His Eye On The Sparrow." Vicki Youcom of Louisville, Kentucky will be the speaker. The program starts at 8:00 a.m. and will be followed by lunch at noon

Lady's Days coming later .. Information to follow

Lady's Day ... April 21, 2018

Paris Church of Christ, 704 Alexander St., Paris, Illinois

Lady's Day .. May 5, 2018

25 N. Greenmound Rd, Belleville, Illinois 62221

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: Soups in pull tab cans, Hormel or Dinty Moore dinners in small oval containers Beef Jerky, Slim Jims Little containers of fruit in pull tab cans (the little plastic containers of fruit seem to get broken in shipping)

Reading : John 16: 5-15 ; John 17: 6-17

Birthday :

Megan Nichols		February 18
Mikala Nichols		February 18

NEXT WEEK : (February 25, 2017)

Song Leader : Stan

Scripture Reader : Ron

Table & Announcements : Darrell

Prayer list :

Riley Stevens: No updates on reports that Riley was having significant respiratory, and digestive issues.

Bob Stevens: Bob's recovery from surgery still going so well. He now walks for 20 minutes four times daily in the house.

Hailey Wilhour: Has undergoing chemo & awaiting a bone marrow transplant

Peggy Storm : In Neoga rehab center receiving physical therapy to assist her in recovery from her stroke.

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law continues to receive chemo treatments.

Rosanne Reynolds : Very painful pinched nerve in her neck is also causing pain in both wrists. Knee surgery healing well.

Ron Bartanen : They scheduled his surgery for February 23.

Ernie Wasson : He's at home now, but his lack of healing from the incisions on his legs is still an issue.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Doris, Mary, Jeanne, Delores, Marg, Pete & Hazel, Betty, Francis

Other members with ongoing issues :

Robin Shumard : significant respiratory and foot issues

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing painful back issues

Megan Nichols : About the same - still in physical therapy

Madonna : Madonna's chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Improving, but issues remain / surgery

Mindy Stevens : Experiencing immune system issues.

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend is suffering from kidney failure due to diabetes. Stabilized, but remains an ongoing problem.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !