

Upcoming Events...

Last-Saturday-in-February-Meeting: February 25

1 Corinthians Class: Every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.

Barnabas Group Meeting: February 28

Some Things to Think on

Author Unknown

- Never neglect daily prayer. When we pray, remember that God is present, and that He hears us.
- Never neglect daily private Bible reading. When we read, remember that God is speaking to us, and that we are to believe and act upon what He says.
- If we are in doubt whether a thing is right or wrong, go to God and ask for help in making our decision the right one.
- Never take our standard of Christianity from other Christians, or argue that because this or that person does something, we may. Instead, ask ourselves, "What would Christ do?" Strive to follow Him.

February Birthdays

8 Zoie Perales

25 Mike McKnight

February Anniversaries

5 Mike & Morgie McKnight

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Try Running Again

By Gus Nichols

Perhaps some reader has tried to be a Christian, but failed. If so, why not try again? Great success does not always come from a single effort. Worthwhile things are always worth trying and striving for, even if we must try again and again. In the year 1917 a tornado destroyed our home, blew it away and ruined our crops out on the farm before it tore up Carbon Hill, Alabama, and left the dead homeless in its wake. But we did not give up and quit. The next spring we found ourselves planting again, and soon we were growing crops.

Life is like that. Wars are not usually won by a single battle. But battle after battle must be fought before the victory is won. In a way some of the battles are lost, but victory belongs to those who win the last battle.

One young man started in to fight the cigarette habit but soon felt that the weed had conquered him. However, he decided that no man is licked who will keep on trying, again and again. So he summoned all his forces and marshaled them against his dangerous habit. A day at a time he vowed to his friends and to God that he would not smoke that day, regardless of what happened. Soon he had conquered a habit that is master of millions in our land.

Very few spend a long life in the service of Christ without ever getting discouraged, and for the moment, giving up in despair. But those who overcome the world are they who (if need be) try again and again – who refuse to surrender to the evil one. If they fail, they go down fighting – soon to rise again.

It is easy to give up and quit when the going gets rough, as it most certainly will – sooner or later. Long roads usually have some detours and rough places over which one must travel in order to reach the desired destiny.

The Christian life is like running a race (Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27). If one fails he should get up and try again. The New Birth is a sort of “Land of Beginning Again” (John 3:5).

So is a restoration of an erring child of God.

“Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.”

Galatians 6:1

“My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

James 5:19-20

The Remedy for Judging

Wendell Winkler, Heart Diseases and Their Cure

1) **Love.** Love is always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient (1 Corinthians 13:7; cf. 1 Peter 4:8). The faults of others will appear thick if our love for them is thin.

2) **Consider how despicable it is.** Matthew 7:3 suggests the censorious judge anxiously looks for a fault upon which to pounce. He is a “picker.” How despicable! The critic is always actuated by improper motives (John 12:4-6).

3) **Practice the golden rule** (Matthew 7:12). Substituting “think and judge” for “do” in this passage makes it read, *“Whatsoever ye would that man should think and judge of you, do ye even so to them.”* This would eliminate unkind censoring.

4) **Examine ourselves** (1 Corinthians 11:28; 2 Corinthians 13:5). Upon examining ourselves we will see that “there is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it little behoves any of us to talk about the rest of us.” So, when looking for faults, use a mirror and not a telescope.

5) **Look for the good in others.** Though Paul was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and injurious, God saw in him the possibility of being a chosen vessel and minister (1 Timothy 1:13; Acts 9:15; Acts 26:16). Be like the bee and concentrate on the sweet and beautiful, rather than like the buzzard who concentrates on the dead and the foul. Though the dog was ugly and mangy the little child said, “But he wags his tail.” Let us not concentrate exclusively on the one small black dot on the white sheet of paper, and fail to see and appreciate the entire white surface that remains unmarred. Be a Barnabas and see the good in others (Acts 9:26-31; Acts 15:36-41).

6) **Ask God for help in overcoming this sin.** It is not accidental that “ask, and it shall be given you” immediately follows the Lord’s classic text on judging (Matthew 7:7).

7) **Consider how much hurt we inflict.** The sharp barbs of criticism wound and discourage. They also destroy the victim’s reputation, that upon which his influence is predicated, resulting in his potential for good being seriously hampered.

8) **Consider the fact that the victim is our brother** (Matthew 7:3-5; James 4:11-12). Judging is contrary to the very spirit of brotherhood.

9) **Put ourselves in the other person’s shoes.** The old Indian prayed, “Great Spirit, help me never to judge Indian brother until I have walked two weeks in his moccasins.” Ezekiel sat where others sat before warning them (Ezekiel 3:15-17).

10) **Remember that our judgments are often wrong** (1 Samuel 16:6-13). Eliab misjudged the motives of David (1 Samuel 17:28-29). Lysias misjudged Paul (Acts 21:37-38). Nathanael was wrong in his judgment about Jesus of Nazareth (John 1:46).

11) **Consider what judging will do to us:** (a) It will blind us to our own faults (Matthew 7:1-6; Luke 18:9-14). This makes repentance and confession impossible (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:8-10). (b) It will destroy our friends. Picking our friends to pieces makes them come to loathe us. (c) It will put our eyes out to the beauty and virtues of others. (d) It will rob us of happiness. No one can live happily and meaningfully on a diet of negatives.