

Upcoming Events

Business Meeting: Today at 4:30 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class: October 20 at 4:00 p.m.

Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Hebrews class Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Dedication

“Talent is cheap; dedication is expensive. It will cost you your life.” - Irving Stone -

“There are always periodic opportunities to give up, while every single moment is an opportunity to persevere.” - Dean Wilson -

“Don’t count the days. Make the days count.” - Muhammed Ali-

“Dedication requires sacrifice”. - Sunday Adelaja -

October Birthdays

3 Betty Heitmeyer

28 Allan Brown

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Study and Practice

By Jonathan McAnulty

There are very few areas of expertise achieved by men apart from diligent study and practice. Olympic athletes and other individuals considered to be at the peak of physical human ability are not born that way. They have a regime they have followed, and most of them practice, and practice, and practice, devoting hours a day to improving themselves. Our physicians and surgeons are not considered competent to take us apart and put us back together again without first undergoing years of study and training. There are many more examples that could be given.



There are not many activities where constant practice does not improve ability. And there are few activities where, with enough practice, most people cannot achieve some competence. Generally, when an individual says, “I could never do that,” what they really mean is that they don’t want to spend the time and energy to learn how to do a thing. Sometimes such thinking is borne out of fear, but if we were to be honest with ourselves, frequently it’s just laziness or a lack of proper motivation on our part.

Why should we think that it is any different in matters of spiritual achievement? The Bible reminds us concerning spiritual ability, maturity, and our ability to understand the Bible: *“For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil”* (Hebrews 5:13-14; NKJV).

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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Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

Any Responses Sunday?

By Stanley A. Sayers

Let us first notice that it is possible to be “unskilled” in God’s word; implying that it is fully possible to be “skilled.” This skill is achieved, not through the passage of time, but through, “reason of use,” and, “exercising” the senses to discern good and evil. In other words, spiritual ability and spiritual talents get better with practice and exercise, just like any other skill.

Have we considered the fact that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, made like us in every way, and partaking of the full human experience, had to study to get better with God’s word? We find Him engaged in a Bible study at the age of 12, and when found doing so, He identified the study as His Father’s will (cf. Luke 2:46-49). Thereafter we read that Jesus, “*increased in wisdom and stature*” (Luke 2:52). Jesus grew to be a wise man, because, from a very young age, He applied Himself to obtaining that wisdom. He became good at doing the right thing because he practiced constantly doing the right thing, so that He could say of His relationship with God, “*I always do those things that please Him.*” (John 8:29)

But someone will say, “Well Jesus was God in the flesh, I could never be like Him.” As in so many other things, however, such a statement is more of an excuse not to try than it is a valid argument. God wants us to try to be more like Jesus. The term “Christian” means, “Christ-like.” The Scriptures encourage us, telling us that we should look to the example of Jesus as our model for love, forgiveness and many other things (cf. Ephesians 5:2; 1 Peter 2:21; etc.) In fact, God very clearly tells us in His word that the goal is to grow spiritually, to reach the measure of the fullness of the stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:13). We might want to declare that we can’t grow spiritually, but God says we can, and that we should, even if such an endeavor is going to take effort on our part.

Sure, chances are pretty good that if we begin the process of spiritual growth, at some point we are going to falter. But it is only when we stop practicing that we stop improving. Don’t sell ourselves short. God sees great potential in us. Don’t let laziness, fear, or indifference prevent us from achieving that potential. It takes practice, but the more we practice, the easier it gets.

We all rejoice when any come forward to be baptized into Jesus, confess faults, rededicate an unfruitful life, or identify with the local congregation. But so often the common usage of words becomes hackneyed and near meaningless. “Were there any responses Sunday?” What do we mean, really by RESPONSES?

Can you imagine a dialogue such as this? “Last Lord’s day we saw the greatest number of responses in the history of this congregation, yet NOT ONE PERSON CAME DOWN THE AISLE.”

Brother A was so moved by the sermon that he went home following worship and, closing his door, got down on his knees and prayed as never before.

Brother B was so moved by the entire service that he got on the phone, addressing every absentee in the membership.

Brother C was so pricked by conscience that before eating his noon meal, he went straight to a brother with whom he had harsh words, asked forgiveness, and together they prayed and then went out to lunch.

Sister D, during the morning prayer, silently asked God to help her worship Him with a newness of spirit. The entire worship was such an inspiration that brethren didn’t want to rush home, but rather warmly embraced one another and talked about Heaven! Responses continue, for Sunday evening attendance has now equaled that of Sunday morning, and mid-week service has grown fantastically beyond the fondest expectation!

But greatest of all, the entire community is talking about “that friendly church on the corner” where spiritual vitality has seized the entire membership and people hasten to be among them, for Jesus is there.