

Vision: Helping People Win In Life (on the foundation of a Personal & Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ)



Mission: Helping People Win In Life through environments designed to help them take their next steps in Christian Maturity.

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Sermon Notes

“Getting EQUIPPED For The Journey”

Pastor Bob Washington

Icebreaker: Share one area that you desire to grow.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-15

*⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.” ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to **equip** his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.” (NIV)*

Being “EQUIPPED For The Journey” means I must:

1. Expect to be Equipped & Grow (Faith factor)

Matthew 9:29 -- Jesus said, "According to your faith will it be done to you."

****ACTION STEP: Set a Goal**

2. Commit to be Equipped & Grow

Jeremiah 29:13(MSG) -- God: “You'll find me when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else.”

Question: One year from today will I be spiritually stronger?

****ACTION STEP: Covenant with someone**

Nehemiah 9:38 – “In view of all this, we are making a covenant together in writing, and all of us are signing our names to it...”

3. Develop Spiritual Habits for being Equipped & To Grow

1 Corinthians 9:25 -- “All good athletes train hard and practice to get better. They do it to win a prize that won't last. But we practice to win a prize that will last forever!”

Question: How do you establish these habits? Repetition and Practice

John 13:17 – “Now that you know these things, you'll be blessed if you practice them!”

Hebrews 5:14 (GW) -- “Solid food is for mature people, whose minds have been trained by practice to know the difference between good and evil.”

4 Habits To EQUIP You:

- **First Habit is... Participating in weekly large group worship** (weekends)

Acts 2:46-47 -- ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- **Second Habit is...Participating in regular small group fellowship** (weekday, mid-week lift!

Rom. 1:12 (NCV) -- “I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.”

Heb. 10:24-25 (TEV) -- “Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the HABIT of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more...”

- **Third Habit is...Having daily time alone with God** (Pray/Talk to God & Read the Bible, Listen to Him)

Joshua 1:8 -- “Always remember what is written in this Book. Read it and think about it every day and be sure to obey everything written in it. If you do this, you will be prosperous and successful in your life.”

- **Fourth Habit is...Memorizing God’s Word**

Matthew 4:4 Jesus: “People need more than bread for their life; they must feed on every Word of God.” (NLT)

Acts 20:32: “... The word of grace is able to build you up and give you all the blessings that god has for his people.” (GNT)

Different ways we grow:

JOB 33:14 God speaks in different ways, and we don't always recognize his voice (CEV)

LK. 3:18 “In many different ways John preached the good news to the people.” (CEV)

- By Listening (Auditory) By Watching/Reading (Visual)
- By Talking (Verbal/Oral) By Doing it (Physical/Kinesthetics)

We should all have the same goal for ourselves and one another, like the Apostle Paul in **2 Cor. 13:9** (LB) -- “Our greatest wish and prayer is that you will become mature Christians.”

Outline for Small Group (1 ½ hour)

- I. **Welcome:** Ice Breaker, Light Refreshments (20 min)
- II. **Worship:** Sing 2 Songs, Pray (7 min)
- III. **Word:** Discussion /Overview from preached message & Discussion Questions (43 min)
- IV. **Works & Witness:** What will you do to **serve** others and/or **share** Christ with others? How can you **partner** with your Small Group and/or entire Church? (10 min)
- V. **Win (Testimony):** What next step have you taken or are taking toward spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus? *Connecting, Growing, Serving, Sharing, Worshipping* (5 min)
- VI. **Will (Vision & Prayer):** Share the Vision and Mission of CCMS & Pray (ACTS) – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving & Supplication (5 min)