

WELCOME TO WORD OF FAITH LIFE GROUPS **WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**

LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

“How To Live Life The Faith Way” Pt.2a

Thursday, January 5, 2023 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching

VIP Silver Saints - Conference Call # (717) 908-1834 – Dial *6 to Mute

OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

WELCOME TO OUR GROUP (5 MINUTES)

If this is your first time joining us, please introduce yourself! We are glad you took the time to join us today. Our group has four purposes:

1. **L... Learning together from God's Word**
2. **I... Interceding through prayer**
3. **F... true Fellowship in the Spirit of Christ**
4. **E...Evangelizing the lost**

PRAISE & WORSHIP (5 MINUTES)

FACILITATION OF LESSON

Sermon Title: “How To Live Life The Faith Way” Pt.2a

POINT I

There is more than one way to do just about anything. For example, some ministers who prefer to write their sermon notes the old school way, using pen and paper. Others use their computers, but still print the notes. Still others choose to create their notes and preached from them on their I-pad or a similar device like I do. There's more than one way to do just about everything, but not every way is God's way. There are two ways to increase financially. There are two ways to run a business, find a spouse, or even establish a family. Those two ways are very different. One brings peace; the other elicits pain. The two ways are the worlds way and God's way. The world's way of doing things seems right to most people; the methods are commonly accepted however **Proverbs 14:12** warns us, *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”* The Passion Translation of this verse says, *“You can rationalize it all you want and justify the path of error you have chosen, but you'll find out in the end that you took the road to destruction.”* God has a way for you to achieve or receive whatever you want in life. His way is succinct. Jesus gave it to us in **Matthew 6:33**, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* The Kingdom of God is God's way of doing things.

QUESTION

1. Explain the difference between the worlds way of doing things and God's way of doing things.

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POINT II

There are three primary ingredients in the Kingdom of God. The first one is faith. Faith is trust, confidence, belief, alliance, and assurance. We found out last week that faith is not optional for the godly individual. We looked at **Romans 1:17** where it says, *“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”* Also, in **Galatians 3:11** it states, *“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.”* Also in, **Hebrews 10:38** it says this about faith, *“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”*

QUESTION

1. Why is faith not an option for a godly believer?

POINT III

Faith is not a parachute. Too many Christians have treated faith as a parachute; they only reach for it in an emergency. When a tragedy or challenging situation arises, the parachute believer starts trying to work up his or her faith. He might run to church, start reading his bible in the morning, and maybe even put some money in the offering. Those behaviors are supposed to be the norm, not the exception. If someone tries to only stir up faith when they are faced with a crisis, they will be in trouble. Developing faith in the middle of a disaster is like trying to build a house in the middle of a storm. It’s possible to do it, but boy is it tough! Build the house of faith daily. It’s how you are supposed to live; it how God operates.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the characteristics of a parachute Christian?
2. When should you develop your faith and how?

The second ingredient in the Kingdom of God is love. The first and second ingredients in the Kingdom of God are synergistic; they work together powerfully. Faith, the first, functions effectively with the second, Love! In **Galatians 5:6**, it says, *“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”* The word *“Worketh”* is *“Energeo”* in the Greek. It means *made active or made efficient*. You can compare faith and love with your car and gasoline. Your car won’t be active or efficient without fuel the same way your faith won’t work without love.

QUESTION

1. Can your faith work apart from you walking in love? Why or why not?

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POINT IV

When the bible talks about love, it usually refers to the God-kind of love that is described in **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**. Verses 4-8 in the Amplified version says, *“Love endures with patience and serenity, love is kind and thoughtful, and is not jealous or envious; love does not brag and is not proud or arrogant. 5 It is not rude; it is not self-seeking, it is not provoked [nor overly sensitive and easily angered]; it does not take into account a wrong endured. 6 It does not rejoice at injustice, but rejoices with the truth [when right and truth prevail]. 7 Love bears all things [regardless of what comes], believes all things [looking for the best in each one], hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times], endures all things [without weakening]. 8 Love never fails [it never fades nor ends].”* The God kind of love is unconditional: it doesn't say, I'll love you if... it simple says I love you. Faith and love are connected many times in scriptures. You will never operate successfully in faith unless you also walk in love.

QUESTIONS

1. When taking the love walk test in this passage, how would you grade yourself?
2. What do you need to work on?
3. What is the God kind of love and why is it so important?

The great men of faith that I have known, every one of them, Bishop Keith Butler included, were also great men of love. They were always quick to forgive and to think the best of every individual. Consider a small sampling of scriptures below that connect faith and love:

1 Thessalonians 5:5-8

*5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of **faith and love**; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

2 Timothy 1:13

*Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in **faith and love** which is in Christ Jesus.*

Philemon 1:4-6

*4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, 5 Hearing of thy **love and faith**, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; 6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.*

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1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

*2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 3; Remembering without ceasing your **work of faith, and labour of love**, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;*

QUESTIONS

1. Why is love not an option? What are the rewards?
2. What affect does your love walk have on you?

The motive for every faith act should be love. Your first thought, before you move should be, *“How will this benefit someone else?”* That’s how God’s Kingdom works; God is love. He gave Jesus out of love according to **John 3:16**, where it says, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* When we offer our finances willingly, we shouldn’t do it simply because the scriptures promises a thirty, sixty, or hundred-fold return. We give because we love!

Love is a command, not a suggestion! Jesus commanded us to love one another. He also promises us that as we obeyed that command, we would be filled with his joy. In **John 15:10-12** Jesus says, *“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”* Once again, as much as you may want it to be, loving one another is not a suggestion. Jesus’ love expressed through you to others will strengthen you when the world is buffeting you with hatred.

QUESTIONS

1. What is a major characteristic in men of faith?
2. What should be the motive for everything you do by faith?

The exceedingly abundantly comes from love. There is no lack in the kingdom of God; as a matter of fact, there is always more than enough. God’s ways produce greater than our minds could ever comprehend. From our last study on the Prayer of Revelation, the Ephesian’s Prayer, we learned this principle according to **Ephesians 3:20** which says, *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us..”* The word “worketh” is the same Greek word that Paul used in **Galatians 5:6** when he told us that *“faith worketh by love.”* God’s love in you and on you is what makes his power active and efficient in your life. Receiving exceedingly abundantly above all that you ask or think begins with love.

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QUESTIONS

1. How can you experience the exceedingly abundantly above? Give details!
2. What is the connection with Galatians 5:6?

POINT V

God wants to do more for us than we can imagine, but we restrict him when our actions and attitudes don't reflect love. When Jesus told us to seek the Kingdom of God first, he was telling us how to have decisive victory in every situation.

Romans 8:35-39

*Who shall separate us from the **love of Christ**? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him that **loved us**. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from **the love of God**, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Nothing can separate you from the love of Christ. Those who stand by you in difficult times are your true friends. Jesus is your true friend!

Jesus said in **Matthew 28:20**, *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* Jesus remains with you to see you through every challenge and into victory. Faith and love, the first two ingredients of the kingdom, turn weakness into strength and tragedy into triumph.

QUESTIONS

1. How can you determine if someone is a true friend? What is your experience in this area?
2. How will faith and love together to affect your life?

CALL - TIME OF DECISION (EVERYONE BOW YOUR HEADS)

PRAISE REPORTS - *2-MINUTES PER PERSON

PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)

Prayer focus:

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family)
- 2) Life Group members

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3) Word of Faith Leadership:

- a. Pastor Ronald D. Walker, Jr., Evangelist Sharon L. Walker, Minister Promise Walker, Brittany and Christian, Carmelo and the ministerial staff.
- b. Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler

Have you reached out to your circle today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

1. Mark your Calendars for **30 Days of Prayer** from **Monday, January 2nd to Tuesday, January 31st**.
 - a. Visit pray30.org or text **PRAY** to **248-266-9990** to receive the daily devotionals right to your inbox.
 - b. Watch or Read the Daily Devotionals and Pray at Least 30 Minutes Daily.

Our youth are invited to follow **youthpray30** on **Instagram** and **subscribe** to the channel on **YouTube**

- c. In addition, the youth videos will be posted on the pray30.org/ignite website page

Children’s Ministry will have special lessons for the month and a ZOOM meet up every Saturday from 12:00 Noon – 12:30 Noon EST.

2. **Generation 6:20 Youth Service every first Friday of the** month. Join them on **Friday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m.** For more information, please see Minister Francis.
3. **Singles with Purpose**, What are you believing God for in 2023? Make you request known unto God. Let's come together, join our faiths and jump-start your year with Prayer. Just for one hour. **January 13, 2023, 6:00 am to 7:00 am**, in the Sanctuary. For more information see Minister Bachelor or email singlewithpurpose2019@gmail.com.
4. Join the SWAT Team for their next SWAT Outing, **Saturday, January 14th and 28th at 11:00 am**. For more information contact Minister Julie Francis.
5. Join us for **Baby Dedication Services, Sunday, January 15th at 10:00 am**. To register your child please call the church office or see Minister Abbott.
6. Join us for Membership Classes, **Saturday, January 21, 2023 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**. To register for class, please see Minister Abbott.

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7. Join Covenant Partner's for "Fit & Fitly" Joined together. **Friday, January 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** Come on out and receive health tips and information to get you to a better you for the kingdom! For more information contact Minister Lavern Oysterman at covenantpartners@gmail.com.
8. Join us for Family Day on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 10:00 am. Dress down Sunday. Food donations are needed contact Minister Maria Creque for more information.
9. Join us for Early Morning Prayer, **Monday- Friday from 6:00 am - 7:00 am** and Saturday's at 10:00 am. Join us on the Miracle Line on Tuesday's and Thursday's at 11:00 am by conference call, Facebook, YouTube and the Word of Faith Website. The call-in number for the Early Morning Prayer and the Miracle Line is (717) 908-1834, access code 755875#.
10. Then Join us for Noon Day Prayer, with Evangelist Sharon Walker. Join us for 1-hour to pray. This is an In-person Prayer Service at Word of Faith.
11. Monetary donations are being accepted to be a blessing to those truly in need. When making your donation to please write *"Gift for WOFICC CARES."* **WOFICC CARES** about our church family! **WOFICC CARES** about our community! **WOFICC CARES** about the Islands of the Caribbean!

OFFERING

- <https://wordoffaithstthomas.com/give-online/>
- <https://www.givelify.com/>

CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL
