

## Habits of Faith

*Martin Luther:*  
I set down first these two propositions concerning the liberty and the bondage of the spirit:

- A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.
- A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.

*"A Treatise on Christian Liberty"*

### Have-its of Faith

## Habits of Faith

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.  
*Aristotle*

It seems, in fact, as though the second half of a person's life is made up of nothing but the habits he has accumulated during the first half.  
*Fyodor Dostoyevsky*

Zenith used to have the slogan:  
"The quality goes in before the name goes on."  
God, however, puts the name on us first!

### Have-its of Faith

## Habits of Faith

*Ephesians 2:8-10*  
For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God--not because of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### Have-its of Faith

## Habits of Faith

The Church/church does not exist for the sake of its members.

The Church/church exists because there are disciples who are seeking to live out their faith.

### Have-its of Faith

## Habits of Faith

Focusing on **Prayer** (to God) disciplines ... presents **our hearts** in sacrifice, **habitually and gratefully** ... which is your spiritual worship... Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...

- Prayer
- Scripture Reading
- Worship
- Spiritual Growth
- Sharing and Service
- Discipling  
(Leading in Faith)

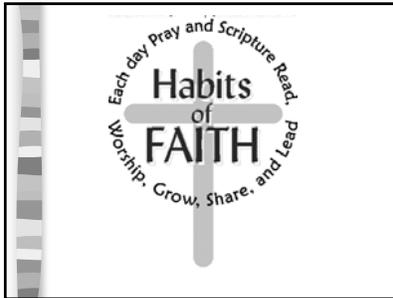
Each day **PRAY** and **SCRIPTURE READ**, **WORSHIP**, **GROW**, **SHARE**, and **LEAD**.

A daily strength, our God we please, Practicing Habits of Faith like these.

Each day pray and Scripture read,  
Worship, grow, share, and lead.  
A daily strength, our God we please,  
Practicing Habits of Faith like these.

More than just for things we pray,  
Prayer is talking with God each day.  
And Scripture reading is where we start  
To know God's story and learn our part.

We worship God and sing God's praise,  
Seek to grow in truth and grace.  
What God has given, we also share,  
Thus leading others to know God's care.



## PRAYER

One of the first steps taken by an active faith is commitment to prayer. The practice of daily prayer—which includes thanksgiving, confession, prayer for self and others, and the Lord's Prayer—will lead to the formation of a prayerful life.

A man prayed,  
and at first he thought that prayer was talking.  
But he became more and more quiet  
until in the end he realized that prayer is listening.  
*Soren Aabye Kierkegaard (1813-1855)*

I am so busy now that if I  
did not spend two or three hours  
each day in prayer,  
I would not get through the day.  
*Martin Luther (1483-1546)*

Why is it when we talk to God, we're  
said to be praying--but when God  
talks to us, we're schizophrenic?  
*Lily Tomlin (1939- )*

Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?  
*Carrie ten Boom (1892-1983)*

There is a vast difference between  
saying prayers and praying.

When you pray, things remain the same,  
but you begin to be different.  
*Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)*

Women are always involved in spiritual affairs.  
All of the women I ever asked out  
said that I didn't have a prayer.  
*Bob Hope*

## Prayer

- "Pray without ceasing!": a prayerful life
- Prayer as relationship: with God, in community
- Praying: simplicity, ordinariness, begin with God
- Praying and God's will: when God's will becomes our will, then we truly can pray, "Your will be done" ... and it will!
- *Romans 8:26-28*: "... we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words..."



## Scripture Reading

Daily Scripture reading, devotions, and meditation are foundational elements of the Christian faith that is practiced in daily life. In God's Word we find the inspiration, strength, encouragement, and guidance we need to live and think as Christians.

Your Word is a lamp to my feet,  
and a light to my path.  
*Psalms 119:105*

The Bible is alive, it speaks to me;  
it has feet, it runs after me;  
it has hands, it lays hold on me.  
*Martin Luther (1483-1546)*

It ain't those parts of the Bible that  
I can't understand that bother me,  
it is the parts that I do understand.  
*Mark Twain (1835-1910)*

For some people, the Bible is like the *TV Guide*. They use it to see what they want to see.

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.  
*1 Corinthians 15:51*  
*Sign in the church nursery*

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.  
*2 Timothy 3.16*

## Scripture Reading

*Hebrews 4.12*  
 The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

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## Scripture Reading

*Challenges to Listening to God's Word*

- The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life - *2 Cor 3.6*
- Reading as a 'school' exercise of obtaining information
- The Bible treated as a commodity: seeking to get something out of it instead of getting into it

## Scripture Reading

*Acts 8.26-39*

- Do you *understand* what you are *reading*?  
*ginōskō anaginōskō*
- How can I, unless someone *guides* me?  
*hōdēgeō*
- About whom does the prophet say this?  
*Was Christum triebet*
- What is to prevent my being baptized?

## Worship

God created a Sabbath day both as a day of rest and as a time dedicated to the honoring of God. In the weekly gathering with the community of believers we also discover and celebrate our participation in the body of Christ.

## Worship

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.  
*Exodus 20.8*

Sabbath is an invitation to imagine our life differently.  
*Walter Brueggeman*

Better an hour in church...  
 ... than no sleep at all.

Why is it that people want to spend an eternity in heaven doing what they can barely stand to do for an hour in church on Sunday?  
*Mark Twain (1835-1910)*

Worship is a deliberate and disciplined adventure in reality.  
*Willard Sperry*

Women enjoy church;  
 men enjoy Sundays.  
*Uncle Red Green*

Our hearts are restless  
 till they find their rest in Thee.  
*Saint Augustine*

## Worship Sabbath

Genesis 2.1-3  
And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

## Worship Sabbath

Deuteronomy 5:12-15  
Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. <sup>13</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>14</sup> But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work -- you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. <sup>15</sup> Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

## Worship Sabbath

- Confirms that God's creation is reliable
- Confirms God's trustworthiness and calms our anxieties
- Asserts our equality under God
- Recreates a moment in creation to rest and praise God

## Worship Sabbath

Mark 2.23-3.6  
"The sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the sabbath."

*Sabbath laws are not meant to create a hedge around the Sabbath but a hedge around us*

## Worship Sabbath

- Give it a rest!
- A "royal waste of time"
- Worship in Revelation  
Remember your strength (Christ) and focus on your vision (heaven)



## Spiritual Growth

Faith is not static, but dynamic. It must always be growing and enriched. This growth is achieved through a commitment to study and other Christian education opportunities along with discussion with other Christians. It is a natural part of a lifelong process of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

## Spiritual Growth

The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.  
*Luke 2:40*

## Spiritual Growth

Encourage one another and build up each other.  
*1 Thessalonians 5:11*

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing.  
*2 Thessalonians 1:3*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation.  
*1 Peter 2:2*

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
*2 Peter 3:18*

### Spiritual Growth

Mary kept all these things,  
pondering them in her heart.  
*Luke 2:19*

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.  
*Philippians 4:8*

### Spiritual Growth

\*The purpose of the Spiritual Disciplines is the total transformation of the person...  
Study is a specific kind of experience in which through careful attention to reality the mind is enabled to move in a certain direction...  
Study should be distinguished from meditation. Meditation is devotional, study is analytical...  
The principal task of study is a perception into the reality of a given situation.  
*(Foster, Celebration, 62-64)*

*In our context, the goal is to study in order to come to a greater and more mature understanding of God, ourselves, and our world. The direction in which we move, therefore, is in the direction of following Jesus and becoming a better disciple.*

### Spiritual Growth

**Four Steps Involved in Study**

- 1) **Repetition** - to channel the mind in a specific direction
- 2) **Concentration** - to center the mind on the topic
- 3) **Comprehension** - to understand what we are studying
- 4) **Reflection** - to determine the significance of what we are studying

*Foster, Celebration, 64-66*

### Spiritual Growth

Make me to *know* your ways,  
O LORD; teach me your paths.  
*Psalms 25:4*

*know* / (dy = *yada'*)  
observe, realize, find out, care about, recognize, perceive, know by acquaintance, have intercourse, (come to) understand, have insight, judgment

### Spiritual Growth

Disciple / *mathētēs* = a student, learner

If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.  
*Mark 8:34-36*

- 1) Deny self
- 2) Take up cross
- 3) Follow me

### Spiritual Growth

If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.  
*John 8:31-32*

- 1) Continuing in Jesus' word means
- 2) being his disciple, and that results in
- 3) knowing the truth and
- 4) being set free

### Spiritual Growth

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect.  
*Romans 12:2*

Each day Pray and Scripture Read.  
Worship, Grow, Share, and Lead

Habits of **FAITH**

### Sharing & Service

To be a Christian is to be a member of the body of Christ. An active faith is expressed

- a) in the practice of one's vocation in daily life,
- b) by involvement in a ministry within the congregation and a mission or service project outside the church, and
- c) a regular plan of financial giving based on gratitude to and trust in God.

**Sharing & Service**

God does not work *in us without us*, seeing that He has for this purpose created and preserved us, that He might operate in us, and that we might cooperate with Him: thus, by us He preaches, shows mercy to the poor, and comforts the afflicted.  
*Martin Luther, "Bondage of the Will"*

**Sharing & Service**

God likes help when helping people.  
*Irish Proverb*

Bear one another's burdens,  
 and so fulfill the law of Christ.  
*Galatians 6.2*

When you work for the Lord,  
 the pay may not be so hot,  
 but you can't beat the retirement plan.

A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.

**Sharing & Service**

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.  
*Winston Churchill*

My home church welcomes all denominations, but really prefers tens and twenties.

While money isn't everything, it does keep you in touch with your children.

For in Christ Jesus... the only thing that matters is faith working through love.  
*Galatians 5.6*

**Sharing & Service**

**Romans 12.3-8**

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup> We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...

**Sharing & Service**

**Romans 12.3-8**

How does Paul describe our various roles?

- 1) As being members with different functions in the one body of Christ
- 2) As having gifts (*charisma*) that differ according to the grace (*charis*) given to each of us

**Sharing & Service**

**1 Peter 4.10-11**

Like good stewards (*oikonomos*) of the manifold grace (*charis*) of God, serve (*diacon-*) one another with whatever gift (*charisma*) each of you has received.

**Sharing & Service**

**2 Corinthians 8.1-12**

Verse 4: "... the privilege (*charis*) of sharing (*koinonia*) in this ministry (*diacon-*) to the saints."  
 Verse 9: "...the generous act (*charis*) of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor..."

**Sharing & Service**

**2 Corinthians 9.6-8**

Verse 7: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

**Sharing & Service**

<p><b>Self-righteous or Self-serving Service</b></p> <p>comes through human effort</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>True Christian Service</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">comes from a relationship with God</p>
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**Sharing & Service**

<b>Self-righteous or Self-serving Service</b>	<b>True Christian Service</b>
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*impressed with "big deals"*

can't distinguish between  
small and large service

**Sharing & Service**

<b>Self-righteous or Self-serving Service</b>	<b>True Christian Service</b>
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*requires external rewards*

rests contented in hiddenness

**Sharing & Service**

<b>Self-righteous or Self-serving Service</b>	<b>True Christian Service</b>
---	---------------------------------------

*highly concerned about results*

free of need to calculate results

**Sharing & Service**

<b>Self-righteous or Self-serving Service</b>	<b>True Christian Service</b>
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*picks and chooses whom to serve*

is indiscriminate in its ministry

**Sharing & Service**

<b>Self-righteous or Self-serving Service</b>	<b>True Christian Service</b>
---	---------------------------------------

*affected by moods and whims*

ministers simply and faithfully  
because there is a need

**Sharing & Service**

<b>Self-righteous or Self-serving Service</b>	<b>True Christian Service</b>
---	---------------------------------------

*is sensitive only to its own  
need to serve*

listens with tenderness and  
patience before serving

**Sharing & Service**

<b>Self-righteous or Self-serving Service</b>	<b>True Christian Service</b>
---	---------------------------------------

*fractures community*

builds community

**Sharing & Service**

<b>Self-righteous or Self-serving Service</b>	<b>True Christian Service</b>
---	---------------------------------------

*is temporary, lasting only as  
long as it is serving*

is a life-style

**Sharing & Service**

By and large a good rule for finding out [your vocation] is this. The kind of work God usually calls you to do is the kind of work a) that you need most to do and b) that the world most needs to have done. ... Neither the hair shirt nor the soft berth will do. The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

*Frederich Buechner*



## Discipling

A faith active in life is always involved in mission. To believe in Christ necessarily means sharing that faith with someone else and wanting to lead them into greater discipleship. A practical goal is to make a commitment to share your faith with at least one other person in an ongoing relationship.

## Discipling

If you continue in my word,  
you are truly my disciples.  
*John 8:31*

By this everyone will know that you are my  
disciples, if you have love for one another.  
*John 13:35*

My Father is glorified by this,  
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.  
*John 15:8*

## Discipling

How beautiful are the feet of  
those who bring good news!  
*Isaiah 52:7*

Unbelief is as much of a choice as belief is. What makes it in many ways more appealing is that whereas to believe in something requires some measure of understanding and effort, not to believe doesn't require much of anything at all.  
*Frederick Buechner*

## Discipling

### Jonah

**What kind of missionary was he?  
How successful of a missionary was he?**

## Discipling

- **2 Kings 5.1-3**  
Who is responsible for the conversion of Naaman?
- **John 1.45-51**  
What was the extent of Philip's message in 'evangelizing Nathanael'?

## Discipling

- **Matthew 28.19-20**  
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the the end of the age.

## Discipling

- **2 Timothy 1.5**  
I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.
- **1 John 1.1-4**  
This is what we proclaim to you... so that you also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ...; so that our joy may be complete.

## Discipling

### Caring Evangelism

- We are more influenced by who someone is than by what someone wants us to be.
- Our responsibility is not to save people, but to love, care, and pray for others, and be prepared to share our faith when the other person is ready.
- Evangelism is a process, not a result.

## Habits of Faith

### Romans 12.1-2

I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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