

Attend all services of the church!

As disciples, we have an obligation to break bread with our brethren in memory of the Lord each Sunday. Not only did Jesus command His disciples to remember Him in this way (Luke 22:19), we see that it was the regular practice of the early church to meet together each first day to do so (Ac. 2:42; Ac. 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-27).

This assembly was commanded as a means of spiritual edification (1 Cor. 14:26). God defined the activities of the assembly with an emphasis upon teaching and worship, things that will help our faith remain vibrant and fresh. Consequently God's people were urged *"to forsake not the assembling of yourselves together"* (Heb. 10:25).

The church is permitted by God to establish other arrangements for edification that are not explicitly commanded but are helpful for spiritual growth (Eph. 4:11-16). Among those arrangements that have been used by brethren are additional Sunday services, mid-week classes, training classes, VBS's and gospel meetings. I would encourage you to commit to attending all the services of the church that you can possibly attend and making full use of them to help you in your spiritual growth (2 Pet. 3:18).

Make Christians your best friends!

As a Christian, you need the additional encouragement of good role models and associations with

people with shared values.

The first disciples of Jesus appreciated the benefits of not only worshipping together but also spending time together outside worship (Ac. 2:46). This is not to say that you should never visit with old friends or seek to convert them. It is simply to recognize the dangers that attend immoral associations. Paul warned the disciples, *"Bad company corrupts good morals"* (1 Cor. 15:33). Returning to non-Christian friends for companionship or for entertainment will produce a lot of conscientious conflicts. Spare yourself grief, and possible apostasy, by re-aligning your friendships with your faith. Make Christians your best friends!

Study your Bible every day!

God doesn't in the Bible command people to read the Scriptures every day; but it does teach the importance of growing in knowledge (1 Pet. 2:2-3; 2 Peter 1:5-6). Each person has to develop his own discipline to achieve this goal. Many mature Christians recommend setting aside a daily time for Bible reading and reflection. The benefits of doing this are immeasurable. A couple of other suggestions may be helpful:

- Get a personal Bible in an accurate but modern speech translation (like the NKJV or the NASV) with good study helps.
- Keep a journal of your reading and jot down interesting things you discover and questions that arise to ask others later.

- Do some random reading if you like; but don't neglect to use resources from skilled Bible students to get you to your destination faster. You don't have to reinvent the wheel! Learn from those who have experience in the word!
- Consider having ongoing guided studies with a knowledgeable Christian. Many Christians would love to study with you!

Talk to God every day!

A part of what should have drawn us to the Lord is the possibility of having a relationship with Him and the opportunity to talk with Him about our lives and receive from Him blessings in our lives. NT Christians were urged to *"pray without ceasing"* (1 Thes. 5:17). Consider what great possibilities are before you when you pray to the Creator of all things not only about your life but about the concerns you may have for others around you. Some Christians have found this acrostic outline helpful as a guide to praying in all areas: (the "acts" of prayer)

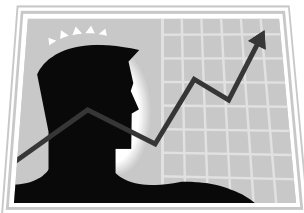
- **Adoration**—Spend some time in prayer praising God and expressing your growing appreciation of His nature.
- **Confession**—Recognize the covenant blessing of coming to Him day by day for forgiveness of sins.
- **Thanksgiving**—Give thanks for all the ways the Lord blesses you from day to day.
- **Supplication**—Ask God to meet your needs and the needs of others. Be specific in your requests.

**Speak about Jesus
to someone every day!**

If you are like most new converts you will be eager to tell others about your new life as a Christian. You will be naturally carrying out one of Jesus' commands—"preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15). Don't let that desire to reach others die; and don't become discouraged if you can't convert the world! Just realize that every time you speak for God, He is pleased and you will help bring others to Christ. And, it will help you stay alive spiritually!

A Word of Encouragement

Of course, there is more to being a Christian than doing these five things; but these are foundational to a successful spiritual life. Just think of these as the first steps that will help you get to where you want to go, that is, being obedient all that the Lord has taught us! (Mt. 28:19). With that as your goal you can look forward with confidence to serving the Lord until the end of your life and receiving your heavenly reward!



This tract is a brief digest of a sermon delivered by Johnny Felker. If you would like a cassette tape of the full sermon, we will be glad to make a copy for you.



Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

We would be honored to have you visit with us at Perry Heights at any of our services.

**Sun. 9:00 a.m. (Bible class)
9:55 a.m. (Worship service)
6:00 p.m. (Worship service)
Wed. 7:00 p.m. (Bible class)**

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**Visit our Web site:
www.perryheights.faithweb.com**

A Recipe For Spiritual Success



Becoming a Christian is an exciting time; but it is also a critical time. Many new converts fall away. What can new disciples do to in order to succeed in serving the Lord faithfully to the end of their lives?