



The Family Report

Loving God... Loving You...

January 20, 2008

WWW.GODSBIBLE.ORG

Volume 2, Issue 2

Thoughts on Study and Simplicity

I've recently been studying the practice of spiritual discipline, a voluntary denial of one's own wants, desires, and "enjoyable" activities for a complete devotion to the Lord. While this is probably a concept well known and studied for almost any one who normally reads these bulletins, I fear that our culture and society are so far removed from self constraint, denial, and sacrifice, that such an idea would sound completely absurd and illogical. But, as Gary put it a few days ago, we're all a slave to something.

For me, it is easy to read about the discipline the early disciples practiced and feel that it is no longer applicable, or required, of my life or walk with the Lord. It is easy for me to get overwhelmed with just how devoted these early Christians were to the point that attaining such con-

straint myself seems almost impossible. But, I also remember, when I was finishing up high school, how intimidated I was by college level study. Yet, I devoted myself to an education, and achieved it. I've often wondered (though never acted) what I could accomplish if I devoted four years to serving the Lord with the same fervor and intensity I

Continued on following page...

Don't forget

Family Movie Night!!!



"The Last Sin Eater"
tonight, 6 pm, at the building

**free snacks and drinks
before the movie**

I gave to educating myself.

Indeed, study of God's word is a discipline in its own right. I've often joked with others that its sometimes difficult for me, a procrastinator, to feel urgency in studying the Bible. I tend to cram the night before the test. That works for school, but life is like a series of daily pop quizzes with one big comprehensive pass/fail final at the end. And, no matter how hard we work, it's impossible to *earn* a passing grade. Test analogies aside, though, it is crucial that we are deeply connected to God's Word.

More than just a daily reading or memorization schedule, while those are excellent, we need to mull over verses, meditate on them, study commentaries and talk to others who study regularly. I think it is impossible to be confident in "God's will for your life" without a constant study and growth in knowledge of the Scripture. I've been guilty of saying in the past that I wish I could hear God speaking directly to me. The great thing about that is the Bible is

God speaking directly to us as individuals.

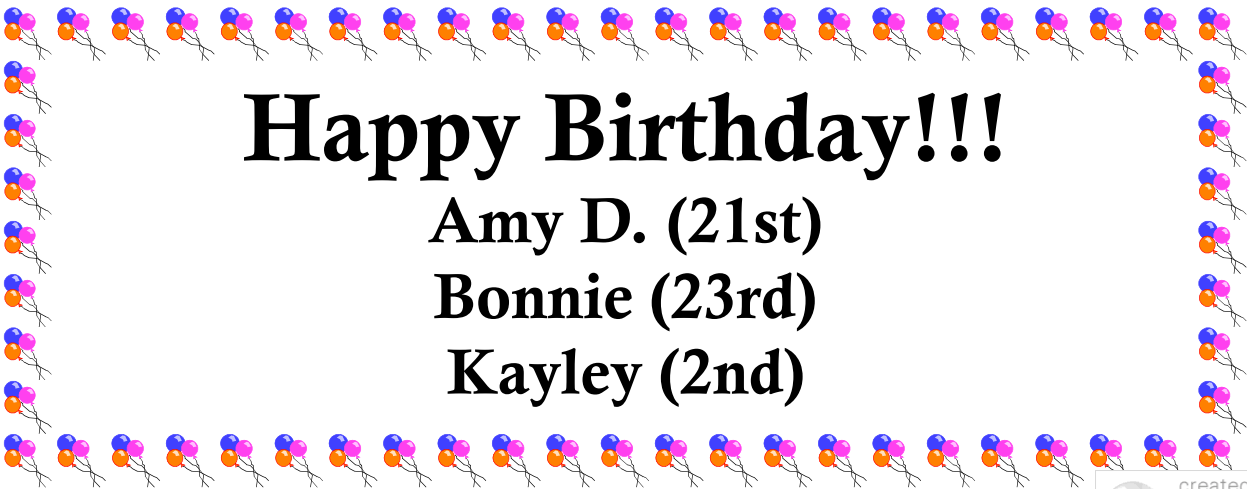
While there are several different areas of spiritual discipline (prayer, fasting, meditation, solitude, submission, service, worship, the list goes on), I do want to focus a bit of attention on the discipline of simplicity. Ecclesiastes 7:30 says it beautifully, "God made man simple; man's complex problems are of his own devising." How true are those words. If we would be content with food and clothing, and trust God to provide everything we need, think how much better life would be.

This is one area that I feel is a constant battle for me. After spending a (relatively short) time over the summer fretting over issues like the lack of a sprinkler in my yard or the "need" for a privacy fence, I had to step back to take in the full picture. A countless number of people don't even have clean drinking water, and ashamedly, I spent time (that could have been spent in service to the Lord) lamenting my inability to throw water on the piece of

God's earth I have obtained a deed to, which to date, people can still see into and my dog can still get out of. I think God didn't have privacy fences or sprinkler systems in Eden for a reason. Although I wonder if the serpent would have mentioned to Eve cutting down the tree of the knowledge of good and evil to turn it into lumber for such projects, if God might have found Adam already working at the Garden's sawmill.

Although possibly a poor example, I do find myself getting entangled in wants and desires that are driven more by societal expectations and earthly wants and motivations than an attempt to please God. I think we all find that most of our problems stem from such entanglements.

In closing, just for the record, I am not suggesting that if you have a privacy fence or a sprinkler system that you get rid of it. First of all, the time and effort it would take to dispose of them would only serve to make your life more complicated. And, let's face it, I'd have them, too, if I could.



Happy Birthday!!!

Amy D. (21st)

Bonnie (23rd)

Kayley (2nd)

Prayer Report

We have a wonderful privilege and honor to go to God in prayer. As you pray, please remember the following people:

Carolyn and Edward, Vicki's parents, are dealing with several health issues.

Keith, Coeta's brother, is sick. Also, for **Coeta**. Please remember **Coeta's family** as they mourn the passing of her brother. **Coeta's** sister is also struggling with health issues.

Ollie A., Coeta's friend, is battling cancer.

Nita M. is having eye problems. She is also recovering from a recent fall.

Vince, Stacy's brother, has scar tissue on his brain. Also, for his wife who is recovering from surgery.

Cathy M. is suffering from emphysema due to smoking cigarettes.

Shirley, Luther's daughter, is suffering from lupus.

Ladonna and Lauren, both Henry's friends, are suffering from cancer. Lauren is a freshman in high school and is only 15 years old.

Kevin, Randy's brother, is battling an addiction to drugs.

Olivia M. has cancer. She is only 5 years old.

Randy M. is dealing with heart trouble.

Frieda D. also is suffering from heart problems.

Dan, Randy's co-worker, recently had a stroke.

Brenda, Stacy's cousin, is going through a di-

vorce. She has two children.

Johnny, Rick's brother, is serving in Iraq.

Ray, Wes's friend, suffered a stroke.

Karen, Wes's co-worker, has cancer. Her counts are going down after chemotherapy treatment.

Grant T., Randy's nephew, was recently diagnosed with Crohn's disease.

We want to always remember the entire **Tambov congregation** in our prayers. Let us pray that they will have strong leadership.

Nellie, Pat's mom, is suffering from a blockage in her neck.

Leland D. is recovering from a stroke.

Gary's mother is suffering from brittle bones

Pearlie T., Wes's co-worker, is suffering from seizures.

Wayne is recovering from a staph infection. Also, **Justin**, Wayne's son, will be going to Iraq in March.

Additionally, remember

Mike and Jim C., **Beth and Michael** (friends of Kat and Don),

W.D. (Randy's neighbor), **Pam** (Stacy's sister), **Ann** (Wayne's mom), **Garcia's father**, **Sarah** (Jeff and Lona's neighbor), **Don** (Randy's brother), **Clara** (Paulette's mom), and **Val V.**

Alma K. recently had knee replacement surgery. Also, her sister, **Millie**, was diagnosed with cancer.

Jimmy V., who had suffered with bouts of depression, committed suicide.

Please keep his family in your prayers during this trying and emotional time.

Greg, Donna's son, is suffering from an autoimmune disease. Donna also has another son who is currently searching for a job.

Mike and Jenna, friends of Aaron and Jessie, are expecting a child. Pray for a healthy pregnancy and healthy baby.

Greta is dealing with personal issues.

Grant B., from St. Louis, was recently diagnosed with IBS and is having complications with some of the medicines he was taking.

Frank T., from Ohio, is suffering from stomach cancer.

Brian, Greg's brother, is recovering from a fall off of a ladder.

Carol, Lona's mom, was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She will have surgery in the following week.

Sarah, Amy's mom, is recovering from a hysterectomy.

Paulette F. from Texas was recently diagnosed with breast cancer.

Bonnie was recently hospitalized and diagnosed with severe thyroid problems.

Gary K. is dealing with bouts of depression.

We also don't want to forget to thank God and praise Him for all of His wonderful blessings.

Praise God!!!

Our Vision

Community

It is our vision to become an active member of our immediate community; to provide hope, help, love, acceptance, and spiritual encouragement.

Growth

It is our vision to welcome new people into the fold, and help them discover the gifts and talents that God gave them to be used in proclaiming Christ to a lost and dying world.

Faithful to God's Word

It is our vision to remain faithful to God's word, to place Christ first in everything we do, and to allow ourselves to be led only by His Word and Holy Spirit.

Concern for Others

It is our vision to become intimately aware of the needs of our congregation and community and to actively try to meet those needs.

Evangelism (Reaching the Lost)

It is our vision to focus intently on ways to reach the lost in our local community and in foreign lands, and to send missionaries from the body on short and long term mission projects.

Leadership

It is our vision to have scriptural leadership; to have elders, deacons, and teachers within the next two years.

Family Atmosphere/Relationships

It is our vision to maintain and promote a true family environment where all may feel they belong and everyone knows each other's name.

January Schedule

Sunday, January 20: Johnie speaking
MOVIE NIGHT!

Wednesday, January 24: Gary speaking
2nd Timothy 1

Sunday, January 27: Jeff speaking
Lunch following services
Men's and women's studies

Wednesday, January 31: Randy speaking
2nd Timothy 2

Nita L. will be preparing communion

*Please join us in
worshipping God!!!*

Sunday morning: 10 am
Wednesday evening: 7 pm

803 W. 63rd St South
Wichita, KS 67217

www.gods bible.org