

This time around in USG will be different than before. I sure do not want to kill Summer attendance on Wednesday nights, but I'm not here to hold your hand or spoon feed this book to you. We all are here to study and learn. The attendance and participation was good at Faith Fellowship, but it would have been better if I hadn't asked them to do homework, but on the whole, they are not as committed as you.

It certainly is okay to come if you do not get the lesson read, it just will be better if you do.

### DON'T NOT COME BECAUSE OF THE HOMEWORK

I don't think I can say it much better than I wrote it originally, so it will be your responsibility to read the assignments. They will not be long or hard, even though it does sound worse than it really is.

Each weeks lesson will have 3 parts

1. Brief review of the highlights form the past week
2. Sharing what you have learned on your own over the last week
3. I will hit the highpoint from the assigned reading or whatever God leads me to in relation to the assignment.

You will get more by reading your lesson on your own than I will tell you, so it really is to your advantage to read the lesson.

Again, the book is God's work, so it is worth reading.

Review from last week...

1. The Bible is the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
2. Your life is transformed when you put scripture to practice.
3. God doesn't always answer prayers immediately because we may not have the foundation to handle it.
4. Meaning... we have to build on to our foundation of faith.  
AGAIN ... we have to build on to our foundation of faith.
5. Scripture is alive and becomes transformative when God makes it so. It is by His grace and in his timing when He will reveal the next thing for us to know.
6. We must be faithful with the little before we can be trusted with the greater. (Luke 16:10)
7. To whom much is given, much is required. (Luke 12:48) If we have been given a great opportunity to step out in faith, we have a great requirement to act on it if we expect to continue in godliness.
8. Review Hebrews 5:12-14, 6:1-3  
Change Spiritual Diet, move on from the Elementary Teachings  
By Constantly using the Teachings of Righteousness we can know the will of God.
9. Review 2 Peter 1: 3-12  
God has given us everything we need...  
We must add to our faith because it is not enough.  
(See notes from last week)
10. New Verse to consider...  
1 Timothy 4:8  
For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.  
  
Godliness is a goal, it is of value both now and later, God said be holy because I am holy...( Deuteronomy and repeated in 2 Peter) so we see the pursuit of increasing godliness or Spiritual Greatness is of value.

Tonights lesson **How to Unlock MORE Spiritual Greatness** into your life. If you read Chapters 1-3, you or already know the answer and we will discuss that, but first...

Part Two            Let review your homework

Did you get your notebook or 3 ring binder?

Did you make a list of what you prayed about daily?

Did you see any prayers answered, have a blessing or see a miracle?

What did you learn about your personal transformative verses?

Part Three            Chapter 1    Spiritual Greatness

                          Chapter 2    A Different Way of Thinking

                          Chapter 3    The Disciplined Training Approach

How to Unlock Your Spiritual Greatness...

Q./    Well, you read the assignment, How does that work? It has something to do with constantly using the Teachings of Righteousness.

We know what Teachings of Righteousness are not... They are not the Elementary Teachings, so what are the Teachings of Righteousness?

I spent several pages explaining that our only righteousness is from and by Jesus. We are just before God only because when He looks at us, He sees Jesus first.

So the Teachings of Righteousness must be the active, demonstrated, Teachings of Jesus.

Wow that really narrows it down. It is in the discipline of *Constantly Using* the Teachings of Righteousness that we ...

          Discern good from evil,    Discern the Will of God

          Gain the power of godliness... 2 Peter says we have to increasingly add to our faith in order to have a productive or effective knowledge of Jesus.

Increasingly add to    ... means... *constantly using*...

What did Jesus teach?

What did He teach that we can constantly use and increasingly add to?

Last week, Leonard said we add to our faith, by stepping out in faith more often and more boldly. We certainly see Jesus acting and praying boldly.

We will discuss Jesus personal example of prayer, fasting, meditation, solitude, which are teachings by example, but first ...

Q./ What specifically did he direct, or teach us to do?

A./ 1st and 2nd Greatest Commandments

Love the Lord, your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength.

Love your neighbor as your self.

Those are the greatest teachings, but Jesus did more than teach by word of mouth, he taught by example.

2nd Greatest Commandment

So... let's see how he modeled love for God and his neighbor beginning with his neighbor.

Love your neighbor as yourself ultimately means making your neighbors needs at least as important as yours. In finality, we see Jesus making his "neighbors" needs greater than His, as he took our punishment on the cross so we could stand justified before God.

Jesus' love for neighbor was ultimate and supreme.

We see Jesus teaching, frequently using parables and practically healing those who were sick sometimes on the Sabbath. The problem with that is that is hard for us to replicate, or is it?

Q./ What were Jesus last words of instruction? (The Great Commission)

A./ Go ye therefore

Making disciples of all nations

Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

*Teaching them to obey / observe everything I have commanded you.*

Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus taught and believed that we should teach everything He commanded. *That is a Teaching of Righteousness.*

He said love, care for, encourage, but He also said we should teach and I think we can say teach by word as well as example.

*Hebrews says that ...*

*by now we should be teachers...*

*by now we should be feasting on meat not milk,*

*by now we should be constantly using the Teachings of Righteousness which includes teaching what He taught.*

We are seeing a “raised bar” to a life of godliness. It is raised because we increasingly add to Faith...

Knowledge

Self-control

Perseverance

Godliness

Brotherly Kindness

Love

Jesus in Heaven

Jesus in Temple as child

Jesus waiting to meet John the Baptist

Jesus beginning ministry

Jesus set apart for God

Jesus healing and teaching

Jesus going to the Cross

Because... *Faith is not enough, even for Jesus.* Consider His’ life in light of the progression of characteristics shown above.

(The process of adding on later to be described as the Disciplined Training Approach)

1st Greatest Commandment

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength.

This is the heart of the lesson.

Q./ How did Jesus love the Father with all his heart and soul and mind and strength?

A./ Sharing his knowledge at the temple even as a child

## Prayer

Lords Prayer ... may His will be done (Submission)  
Solitude ... Seeking God alone in the early morning  
    Seeking God in the mountain  
Fasted 40 Days  
Always serving others, the last will be first  
Praising God  
Worshiping God  
Evangelism  
Submission to God

In all these activities we see duplicatable actions of Jesus that have been called Christian Disciplines.

By constantly using them, by adding to our faith increasingly, we can know and experience God's will in our lives.

### ***The Disciplined Training Approach (or) Practice Makes Perfect***

Athletes understand a disciplined training approach, or progressive workout program. Successful ones have a system of accountability also.

You begin with faith you can do it,  
then develop some ability, (**goodness**)  
then with **self control** you develop a diet and exercise regimen that will be productive,  
then you **persist**, and keep on persisting until you reach a level of distinctiveness. (**Godliness**)

Does this sound familiar?

As believers, if we are to progress we need a Disciplined Training approach. A systematic increasing plan measures effort and tracks growth.

It is not enough to just have faith

It is not enough to pray ...sometimes

It is not enough to read your Bible... sometimes

We need accountability to see that we are hitting all the marks or touching all the bases.

Part 2, The Path to Your Spiritual Greatness combines the different disciplines into a program you can methodically follow. Sure there will be variation, but what is most important is your purposeful devotion of you only non renewable resource... time to God.

Make a date, set an appointment. Know ahead of time what you will pray about. Learn to pray out loud when alone. Spend purposeful time in meditation and solitude, giving God a chance to speak. If He did, would we be still enough or quiet enough to hear Him?