

# The Brown Street Beacon

*“...Shine out among them like beacon lights,*



*holding out to them the Word of Life” (Phil 2:15-16)*

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## A Daily Religion

**T**hat the church grew rapidly in the first century is clear from reading the book of Acts (Acts 2:47; 4:1-4; 5:12-14; 6:1; etc.). The question is why did the early church have so much success in the area of growth? I believe I know at least part of the reason. They practiced a daily religion. There are many reasons that we set forth to explain why the church isn't growing as rapidly today. Some of the reasons are valid, some of the reasons are nothing more than excuses to cover up our shortcomings. The fact is, if we would practice religion daily, as did the first century Christians, we too would see results. People used to talk about their Sunday clothes in contrast to their everyday clothes. Too many of us have a Sunday religion. When we take off our Sunday clothes, we take off our Sunday religion as well. That kind of mentality is not conducive to growth. We must learn to practice our religion everyday (John 15:1-7; 1 Corinthians 15:58). Let's look at some of the things we should do daily.

### Serve God Daily

Under the law of Moses, there were daily services and sacrifices to be performed (Exodus 29:38, 39; 30:7, 8). Paul said that the things written aforetime were written for our learning (Romans 15:4). If God expected daily services from His servants in the Old Testament, why would He expect anything less from us today? We are now God's priests, and we should act like it (1 Peter 2:5; Romans 12:1). We must, as Jesus once said, be about our Father's business. In another place Jesus said, “I must do the works of Him that sent me while it is day, for the night is coming when no man can work” (John 9:4). Is that your attitude? It should be! It should be the attitude of us all. We should strive to serve God everyday of our lives. There is always something to do?

### Pray Daily

Do you believe in the power of prayer? I'm sure that you do. Through prayer we have access to God (Hebrew 10:19-22; Ephesians 2:18; 3:10-12). Through prayer we can cast our cares upon God and receive help (Hebrews 4:16). Through prayer we can escape temptation (Matthew 26:40, 41). Faithful people of God have always been active in prayer. Abraham and Moses are often found in the posture of prayer on the pages of inspiration. David and Daniel made a habit of petitioning the throne of grace during their earthly pilgrimage. Apostle Paul's prayer life is heavily substantiated in his epistles. These great Bible characters are not ones who prayed once in a while; they prayed regularly, even daily (Psalms 55:16, 17; 88:9; Daniel 6:10, 11). Prayer makes us stronger. It often takes our mind off of the physical things of this life and puts it on a higher plain. You can't pray without thinking about God. And the more you think about God, the stronger you will be in the spiritual realm. No wonder Paul said, “*Pray without ceasing.*” It sends us in the right

direction. Prayer is conducive to spiritual growth.

### Study Daily

Bible study is another thing that leads to spiritual growth. In fact, one cannot grow spiritually without a regular diet of God's Word (1 Peter 2:1, 2). How often do you study the Word of God? Paul said, "*Study to show thyself approved of God; a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (2 Timothy 2:15). The Bereans gave us a good pattern to follow. After hearing Paul preach, they searched the scriptures *daily* to see if the things he taught were so (Acts 17:10, 11). Our children attend school five days each week for nine months of the year to learn math, grammar, geography, etc. Yet, we seem to think they can go to Bible study for one hour each week and learn enough about the Word of God to become Christians and remain faithful. Furthermore, many of us think that is all the study we need in regard to God's word. A lack of Bible study produces weak Christians who are not committed to the Lord. It produces Christians who do not attend Bible class like they should or who forget about God during the week. Let us all study our Bible everyday. Let's keep in constant contact with God through daily prayer and Bible study.

What kind of religion do you have? Is it a Sunday religion that you leave at the door of the church building when you leave? Is it a kind of religion that you take off with your Sunday clothes? Or is it an everyday religion? If the church wants to see more results in the area of numerical growth, we must remember that the religion of our Lord is a daily religion. Daily religion leads to spiritual growth, and spiritual growth often leads to numerical growth. Let's grow together daily.

*Don*

## The Faint-Hearted

George Slover

¶ And he shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them'

(Deuteronomy 20:3).

Here God is advising Israel concerning their conduct in the midst of war. He is describing the ideal soldier. Such a soldier would not be fearful, nor faint-hearted, but courageous and trusting in the Lord. The word "faint" means to be wanting in courage, or cowardly. Such fear is a common experience in our spiritual lives. God's word has much to say about "fainting."

Our Lord commands us to pray and faint not (Luke 18:1). We have a gospel to proclaim and must not faint (2 Corinthians 4:1). We are instructed (Hebrews 13:3) not to faint at the hardships of other Christians nor to despise the Lord's chastening or faint when rebuked of him (Hebrews 12:5). We must "not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).

The soldier of Christ has a battle to fight and win. On numerous occasions God commends the courageous and those who do not faint. For example, to the church at Ephesus he says: "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne,

and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted" (Revelation 2:2-3). Like brave soldiers we are to face the enemy with the armor God has given. We are called to stand on the side of truth.

Hear the encouragement of Isaiah: "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:28-31).