

Reading: John 15:1-8

Topic: Evaluating For Growth

INTRODUCTION: In life it is important to take time to _____ and evaluate what we are doing in our personal and spiritual _____, and then to make adjustments and improvements that will lead to growth and development.

I. CUTTING THE WASTE:

A. Unnecessary Clutter:

1. As an example, if you were to go to your _____ and dresser and go through all of your clothes, you would probably find items that you are not wearing, but you are _____ them around.
2. There may be reasons why you don't _____ certain clothes anymore like perhaps you have gained weight and they don't _____ now, or maybe they are old and out of _____, etc. but you hang onto them, thinking that perhaps one day will come and you will _____ them again.
3. If you took out all of the items of _____ that you have not worn in the past year, how much more space would that give you in your closet?
4. One could apply the same principle to the _____ in the kitchen cupboard, the items that a man has stored in his _____ or locker, etc.

B. Unnecessary Life Clutter:

1. In our daily lives, we are all given the same amount of _____, the _____ hours in the day/night cycle, the _____ minutes in every _____ and the _____ seconds of every minute.
2. The Word of God instructs us to count _____ as a valuable thing that should not be _____ on frivolity or evil things. Eph. 5:15-17
3. There are many, many things in this life that call for our _____ and attention, and if we give heed to all of them, we will find our lives becoming too cluttered and _____.
4. The Word of God also give instructions not to waste valuable _____ on some theological discussion that leads to nowhere. 2 Tim. 2:23; Titus 3:9

II. EVALUATING:

A. Taking Stock:

1. Most enterprises and companies have a time every year when they do inventory or take _____ of all of their merchandise and assets to see where they _____ currently.
2. In addition to doing the inventory, the company also reviews its financial statements to _____ profits and losses and to find out if they will end up in the _____ or the _____.

B. Personal Evaluation:

1. When we take stock of our personal lives, we can examine what we are _____ and on what are we spending most of our _____ and energy.
2. Certain things in life are essential – working, going to school, sleeping, eating, commuting, etc. but what we need to evaluate is what do we do with the rest of the _____ that is left over.
3. What we do with the _____ that is apart from the essential things will often determine our levels of success and profitability, both in our natural _____ as well as in our spiritual _____.

C. Evaluation Questions: (DAILY)

List of What I Am Reading: _____

List of The People That I Spend Time With: _____

List of The Things That I Watch With My Eyes: _____

List of The Things That I Listen To: _____

Amount of Time Spent in Prayer & Meditation: _____

Am I Honoring God With My Finances i.e. Tithe & Offering (Weekly) _____

A. Taking A Look:

1. What I am reading will often determine my thought processes and _____. I Tim. 4:13
2. The people that I spend the most time with, I will most likely _____ like them. Pr. 4:14,15
3. The things that I watch with my eyes will affect my _____ and influence my behavior. Lam. 3:51
4. The things that I listen to will also affect my _____ process and behavior.
5. The time spent alone with God in _____ and reflection will deepen my relationship with God, and give me spiritual strength and direction. Mt. 26:41, Lk. 21:36
6. If I honor God with my finances in _____ of my tithe and offering, I will be in the channel of His blessings! Mal. 3:10

III. MAKING NECESSARY CHANGES:

A. To Grow And Develop:

1. I need to eliminate negative and unclean reading materials and _____ to reading positive and uplifting books, magazines and publications that will _____ and inspire me to do better.
2. If I hang out with negative, gossiping and critical people, I need to distance myself from them to _____ other people who are _____ in their thinking and speaking for they will uplift me.
3. If I watch a screen, be it a computer, tablet, phone, monitor or TV, I need to _____ it through the Word of God's _____. Phil. 4:8
4. The music and words that I listen to should be honoring and glorifying to _____ and I need to eliminate the ungodly and unclean stuff that is dishonoring and displeasing to Him.
5. If I am cheating out on my personal _____ time with Jesus, I must eliminate some other activity so that I may have the _____ to be with with Him daily and sit at His feet. Lk. 10:41,42
6. If I am not honoring God in the _____ of my tithe and offering, I need to understand that I am really taking that which belongs to Him and using it on myself, thus taking away the _____ of God upon my finances, so I must _____ my behavior to honor God and receive His blessing. Mal. 3:8,9

CONCLUSION: Just as businesses and enterprises make necessary _____ to increase profitability so also we need to make adjustments and _____ in our lives to become more effective in our daily walk with God and be brighter lights in this _____ world.