

**Reading:** Romans 15:1,2; 14:19

**Topic:** Contributing To The Strength & Growth Of The Church

**INTRODUCTION:** Often as leaders and \_\_\_\_\_ in the ministry of the Body of Christ, we are focused on doing our personal ministry and doing it well, which is necessary and \_\_\_\_\_, but there needs to be an awareness also of how we are contributing to the strengthening of the church and Body of \_\_\_\_\_ as a whole.

## I. STAY WITH IT THROUGH GOOD & DIFFICULT TIMES:

### A. Steady & Faithful:

1. Some people get involved in church and \_\_\_\_\_ when they see that it is vibrant and exciting, but if a tough and challenging situation arises, they run off somewhere else \_\_\_\_\_ for another exciting place to get involved. Acts 17:21
2. The Word of God instructs us to not forsake the \_\_\_\_\_, but to be there to build up and encourage one another in this \_\_\_\_\_ journey and ministry. Heb. 10:25

### B. Get Into The Scripture – The Word of God:

1. There are those who love the moving of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and everyone should love it and be a part of it, but some only want the thrill of the emotional high, and they \_\_\_\_\_ in Biblical knowledge.
2. Everyone who is a child of God should be into the Word of God \_\_\_\_\_ day, getting to know and understand the spiritual principles of \_\_\_\_\_ a victorious Christian life. Ps. 119:9,11,16,17
3. When the high feeling is not there every day, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God still stands and is forever settled in Heaven, ready to give \_\_\_\_\_ and peace and direction to our lives. Ps. 119:105

### C. Strong & Steady In Prayer Life:

1. Jesus taught His disciples to \_\_\_\_\_, not just in times of trouble, but to establish a daily routine of meeting with God and communing with Him to receive \_\_\_\_\_ and direction. Mt. 6:9-13
2. People who have a hit-and-miss type of prayer life will never become a \_\_\_\_\_ and powerful force against the power of darkness, and their spiritual life will be \_\_\_\_\_ and anemic.
3. Discipline is the key to being a strong contributor to the growth and advancement of the \_\_\_\_\_, and that requires people who self-discipline in \_\_\_\_\_ prayer and the Word of God. Eph. 6:10,17,18

## II. BE SPIRITUAL IN AND OUTSIDE THE CHURCH:

### A. Inside the Church:

1. The Body of Christ is made up of a great variety of \_\_\_\_\_ who have different backgrounds and are at different \_\_\_\_\_ of spiritual growth, all with needs to be met, and also who have gifts and talents to contribute the ministry of the Body of Christ. I Cor. 12:12,13
2. It is needful for each member, especially those involved in \_\_\_\_\_, to understand that different personalities may respond differently to what is \_\_\_\_\_ or said inside the church, and mature believers need to be the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ when any misunderstandings or conflicts arise. Gal. 6:1
3. The manifestation of carnality on the part of any believer does not promote spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ in the church or in any individual, and \_\_\_\_\_ need to understand the principle of spiritual maturity. Ja. 1:20

### B. Outside The Church:

1. People who appear to be spiritual in the church, but live differently \_\_\_\_\_ the church do not en-

hance the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of the Body of Christ, but instead project the image that the Word of God only applies when one feels like it. Pr. 25:26

2. Jesus Christ stated that His followers were to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world and that people who live righteously in this world would cause people to realize that the Power of the Gospel does \_\_\_\_\_ the lives of people. Mt. 5:16
3. One of the most effective ways to contribute to the strength and \_\_\_\_\_ of the church is to be a living testimony and \_\_\_\_\_ to the ungodly world. 2 Cor. 3:2, 2 Cor. 6:17

### **III. SUPPORT EVANGELISM:**

#### ***A. Through Giving:***

1. The church is a spiritual entity that God has ordained to be supported by the \_\_\_\_\_ of its members and when people learn the \_\_\_\_\_ of giving of tithe and offering, they enter into a dimension of blessing that affects their lives personally and the church collectively. Mal. 3:10, Luke 6:38
2. When people give to the work of God, the Gospel gets spoken, not just in the \_\_\_\_\_ area and church but throughout the entire world through the financial support of \_\_\_\_\_ missions.

#### ***B. Personally:***

1. Every individual in the church can become involved in evangelism:
  - a. Through giving
  - b. Through prayer
  - c. Through living a godly life in this \_\_\_\_\_ world.
  - d. Through \_\_\_\_\_ your personal testimony with others. (Apostle Paul)
  - e. Through teaching Bible Studies Hebrews 4:12

**CONCLUSION:** May we be people who have a desire and a \_\_\_\_\_ to be a contributor to the advancement and growth and strengthening of the Body of Christ to which we belong, and not be a hindrance or a deterrent to lost people who are seeking for \_\_\_\_\_ in their lives.