

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.