

Basics Are Important

The story has been told of an old ship's captain. Every morning the captain would walk into his office, go to a locked desk drawer, take a key out of his pocket, unlock the drawer, take out a book, read, and then replace the book and re-lock it in the drawer. He would then go about his duties for the day. For years, the captain's lieutenant watched him go through this daily ritual.

At the time of the captain's retirement, the lieutenant was promoted to become the new captain. As part of the changing of the ship's command, the old captain handed over the key to the desk drawer and said, "Guard your ways well, sir, that you follow the advice given in the book. If you do so, you will succeed."

The new captain couldn't wait to see what the book contained that had so inspired the old captain and provided so much wisdom all of those years. He anticipated finding the words of another great sea captain, or perhaps those of a great philosopher, or even the wisdom of the Scriptures. So he rushed right away to the office, unlocked the drawer, pulled out the book and opened it. In the book he found only one page, and on that page were two sentences:

"Port is left."

"Starboard is right."

This story is a simple reminder of how some of the basic things in life cannot and should not be overlooked. Living as a Christ-follower is no different. While Scripture does challenge us to grow, and to move towards maturity in our faith, the call and need to remember the basics is also found. There are some very basic components of the Christian life that we should repeatedly remind ourselves of in order to make sure that we don't forget, and move away from important areas like simple, loving devotion to Christ.

2 Peter 1:12. (NIV) So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.

2 Peter 1:12 (NLT) Therefore, I will always remind you about these things—even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught.

Today, let's think for a minute on how your life might be different if every day when you wake up you remind yourself of the basic truth that: (you are:)

Ephesians 1:4 Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ... a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Psalms 139:14... fearfully and wonderfully made.

Romans 6:11 ...dead to sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

These kinds of daily reminders, are throughout Scripture and they make a world of difference!