

## THE BALANCE PRINCIPLE

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The value of balance begins early in life and continues throughout the rest of our life. A toddler loses its balance at first before it learns to walk upright. Senior citizens tend to lose their balance more often than when in their younger adult days.



Tightrope walker Nik Wallenda has mastered the art of keeping balance as he has walked on a narrow steel cable over such places as the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls and even the active Masaya 2000 plus degree volcano in Nicaragua known as 'The Mouth of Hell.' It was his most dangerous walk on the 1.25 inch cable, with the boiling lake of lava below him which spewed toxic sulphur smelling gases. Those gases not only made the cable oily and slippery, but were also corrosive on metal so the stabilizing wires could not be set up weeks before the walk. Gusts of wind caused him to lose his balance somewhat, while the deadly gases clouded his vision and forced him to remove his goggles while he kept his respirator on. He kept his balance with a flexible balance pole which weighed 40 pounds and was over 30 ft. long.

I have noticed as I researched his various walks, **the wind** is a **prime danger** in his walks. His key to success is his extensive training and preparation. He practices in all sorts of conditions and does much weight training. If he were to fall from the cable during one of his daredevil walks, he is prepared to hold onto the cable for 20 minutes until his team could rescue him (in most situations they are trained to rescue him in 90 seconds but a rescue over the volcano would be much more treacherous due to the toxic gases). His **team** does much **prep work** too in setting up the support cables to **assure** their **stability**.

As Christians, are we as diligent in being prepared for all sorts of factors in life that would seek to take us off balance and cause us to fall? Paul warns us about being **swayed by every wind of doctrine**. God has provided a **team** to keep us stable from such adverse winds ....**the 5 fold ministry**. - Ephesians 4:11-14. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers have different inputs into the life of the church. Pastors and teachers have been the most common messengers in the church, but evangelists and prophets are needed too. Apostles are the church

planters. God's Word itself is used as the primary weapon to keep believers in balance. It is used in different ways according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:2

**Teach** - explain what to believe and be lived out

**Rebuke** - expose what is wrong (eg. Jesus to disciples Mark 16:14)

**Correct** - show how to get back on the right path

**Train** - show how to stay on the right course as a pattern of living - 1 Thess. 4:1

**Encourage** - help them to keep on persevering and living as an overcomer - 1 Tim.6:12

As we will see in this message, there is God's part and our part. **God initiates, but man must cooperate.** Salvation in all its aspects (spiritual, mental and physical) comes by grace through faith. God is the generous giver and man must be the willing receiver.

**Grace** is God's **undeserved favor** on our behalf. - Ephesians 2:8-9

It is also **operational power** for us to respond to his grace through faith.

*It is God who works in you to will and act according to his good purpose. - Philippians 2:13 NIV*

*[Not in your own strength] for it is God who is all the while effectually at work in you - energizing and creating in you the power and desire - both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight. - Philippians 2:13 Amplified*

*To him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.  
- Jude 24*

*Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. - Jude 21*

*To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, immortality, he will give eternal life. - Romans 2:7*

The silver line under the title above represents a balance pole. **News and Information** should be 'fair and balanced'. Alternate views should be discussed and examined. Unfortunately, too much news, scientific research reports and Bible teaching today is not balanced and unbiased.

*The first to present his case seems right, til another comes forward and questions (cross examines) him. - Proverbs 18:17*

In this message we will seek to share the importance and value of being balanced. Losing balance in various behaviors and beliefs can cause great harm and even be deadly. It is just as important to show disciples how to think as to what to think. **We need balanced views of:** The Bible, Bible interpretation, God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Church life, the believer's life and various Bible topics such as the Kingdom, Prophecy etc.

## KEEPING BALANCE: IN YOUR BELIEFS AND BEHAVIOR

The apostle Paul gives us the proper balance of a believer's life. It starts in the spirit and progresses to the soul and the body. God desires peace, wholeness and sanctification for us.

*May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.  
May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming  
of our Lord Jesus Christ. - 1 Thessalonians 5:23*

*(Sanctify = 1. To dedicate 2. Set aside for holy use 3. To make holy )*

### **THE SPIRIT OF MAN - Recreated, Born from above - Instantaneous**

Proverbs 20:27, John 3:3-8, Romans 8:10, 1 Corinthians 6:17, 2 Cor. 5:17,  
Hebrews 10:13, 1 Peter 1:23; 3:4, 2 Peter 1:4, 1 John 3:9

This area of man is the core or heart of his being. God tell us to guard our heart above all else.

### **THE SOUL - Renewed mind, Will aligned - A process**

Romans 8:5,6; 12:1, Ephesians 4:23, Philippians 2:5, Colossians 3:1,2,10

Wheels on a car need regular balance and alignment to reduce premature tire wear.

Our wills need regular balancing and alignment too. This is why Jesus commanded us to pray: *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as in heaven.*

### **THE BODY - Rededicated now / Resurrected later**

Romans 8:22-23; 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 9:27, 15:42-44, 1 Thess. 4:1-7

*It's not the speed of life that kills you but the stress (imbalance) of it.  
- Dr. Jonas Miller*

*Tires of a car wear out more quickly from imbalance than velocity.*

The apostle Paul gave disciple Timothy some sage advice which is relevant for all Christians, but especially for all church leaders.

## BALANCED INTERPRETATION

Aberrant teachings originate from misguided scripture interpretations. Often one verse or two are used to support teachings without looking at context and other scriptures. Promises in the Bible often have conditions to be met before they can rightly be claimed. Sometimes people are blinded by dogmatic denominational belief systems. I usually tell new Christians not to get hooked on only one teacher or stream of Christianity. I consider myself to be a **spiritual mongrel**, as I have learned from various groups and teachers and have attempted to draw from the best aspects that they believe and practice. Most of all, it seems right that all doctrines must pass through the filter of Jesus and what he says, since he is the cornerstone of our faith.

**Promise:** John 3:14-16 Whoever **believes** in the unique son of God being lifted up as the serpent was lifted up on the pole shall not perish but have eternal life.  
**Condition:** Believes (Greek= believes and goes on believing) Belief in the Bible is to trust and also includes obedience: 'He who believes in the Son has eternal life, he who **does not obey** the Son shall not see life.' - John 3:36 RSV/NASB

**Promise:** John 10:27-29 Jesus' sheep given eternal life, no one can snatch them away. (however, history shows that some who professed faith later walked away)  
**Condition:** The true sheep of Jesus listen to his voice and follow him.

**Promise:** Mark 10:29-30 100 fold return in this life (Jesus often used hyperbole)  
**Condition:** Leave home, family and job for his sake (Christian charlatans don't mention that, but merely tell you to give generously to their ministry)

**Promise:** Luke 6:38 Give and it shall be given back to you abundantly.  
**Condition:** This principle is often used by TV preachers about giving money to them, and they change the wording from 'give and' to 'give so that' which is the wrong motive. Also, Jesus did not mention money in the passage but spoke of spiritual matters such as to judge, condemn and forgive.

**Promise:** Matthew 6:14-15 God's forgiveness  
**Condition:** You must forgive others (I have heard respected Christian leaders say that this merely means that our fellowship with God is broken if we do not forgive others, but that we are still saved) Jesus and God's Word say otherwise. Those who have hatred and do not forgive are still in the darkness - 1 John 2:9-11

**Promise:** Salvation  
**Condition:** Confess with mouth 'Jesus is Lord' (must be present reality not just a past confession in a prayer years ago.)  
Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead.  
Those who confess the name of the Lord **must turn away from wickedness.**  
- 2 Timothy 2:19

Here are percentages of Americans who identified as Christians according to a Survey by Pew Research Center: 1990 (85%), 2001 (81.6%), 2012 (78%), 2015 (75%), 2020 (65%)

These figures are idealistic, as there are not that high of percentage who are true followers of Jesus Christ. If there were, the purifying salt effect on our culture would be much greater. A large number of professing Christians have received a 'placebo' rather than genuine Christianity. A look at Barna research reveals that even a large number of evangelical Christians do not even believe the Bible and key Christian doctrines such as the virgin birth and the resurrection of Jesus. What is a placebo?

**Placebo** - Any treatment that has **no active properties, such as a sugar pill**

Many professing Christians go through the motions of Christianity but have no real life in Christ so that they do not influence the world for Christ but the godless world has more effect upon

them. They are conformed to this world instead of being conformed to the image of Jesus. They have been fed a **sugar coated Christian message which appeals to their carnal and material instincts and lusts. It is man centered, not God centered.**

The apostle Paul implores us to 'examine yourself to see if you are in the faith and if Christ is in you.' - 2 Corinthians 13:5

**The Kingdom Message** includes:

Words, Walk, Warfare, Wisdom, Wealth, Works, Wonders and **Warnings**

The New Testament contains 80 different verses that implore the Christian to **persevere** and continue in the faith until they cross the finish line. Here is one of the least preached messages in the Bible. Read Romans 11:17-22.

*'They were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you **continue in his kindness.** Otherwise, you also will be cut off. - Romans 11:20-22*

### **WARNINGS !!!!!**

*'Timothy.....fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have **shipwrecked their faith** ' - 1 Timothy 1:18-19*

*'The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will **abandon the faith** and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.' - 1 Timothy 4:1*

*'Some have in fact already **turned away** to follow Satan.' - 1 Timothy 5:15*

*'Some people, eager for money, have **wandered from the faith** and pierced themselves with many griefs.' - 1 Timothy 6:10, 20-21*

*'If we endure, we also will reign with him. If we disown him **he will also disown us.**' - 2 Timothy 2:12*

*'Demas, because he loved this world, **has deserted me.**' - 2 Timothy 4:10*

*'**Set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.***

*Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and teaching. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them so that everyone may see your progress. **Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.** -1 Timothy 4:12-13, 15-16*

\* **Whole Bible** 2 Timothy 3:16, Acts 20:26, Luke 24:44  
Feed lambs and sheep - John 21:15-17

Most sheep diseases are due to improper diet. The same is true in the spiritual realm.

Some preachers neglect the Old Testament while others may focus only on the gospels or the letters of the New Testament. Jesus told his disciples to teach others to **obey everything** that he commanded them, which includes healing, deliverance, fasting and not laying up treasures on earth. Matthew 28:20. To avoid scriptures that are too challenging, uncomfortable or that give warning is to be guilty of spiritual malpractice. Jesus talked of heaven and hell. **He confronted sin** and warned of God's judgments for those who are rebellious, hardhearted, stubborn, greedy, self-serving etc.

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