

*“THE ESSENTIALS IN OUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY”*

*(PART 2)*

*ACTS 2:40-43*

***2. YOU NEED PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH***

*THE BIBLE CALLS IT FELLOWSHIP. YOU WERE MADE FOR RELATIONSHIPS. YOU DO NEED THE POWER OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE BUT YOU ALSO NEED PEOPLE AROUND YOU TO SUPPORT YOU, ENCOURAGE YOU AND TO FELLOWSHIP WITH. THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT WHEN GOD MADE ADAM, HE PUT HIM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN WHICH WAS A PERFECT ENVIRONMENT. NO PROBLEMS, NO PRESSURE, NO PAIN. YET GOD LOOKED DOWN AT ADAM IN A PERFECT ENVIRONMENT AND SAID IT'S STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH. THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIBLY WRONG. AND IN [GENESIS 2:18](#) “GOD SAID, ‘IT IS NOT GOOD FOR MAN TO BE ALONE.’”*

*IT IS NOT GOD'S WILL FOR YOU TO BE LONELY. YOU WERE MADE FOR RELATIONSHIPS. I DON'T CARE IF YOU EVER GET MARRIED OR NOT. I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE YOUNG OR OLD, A CHRISTIAN OR NON-CHRISTIAN. YOU WERE MADE FOR OTHER PEOPLE. AND GOD SAYS YOU NEED PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH NOT JUST POWER TO LIVE ON.*

*IN ECCLESIASTES 4 THE BIBLE SAYS, “TWO PEOPLE ARE BETTER THAN ONE BECAUSE THEY GET MORE DONE BY WORKING TOGETHER. IF ONE FALLS DOWN, THE OTHER CAN HELP HIM UP.” THE NEXT VERSE IN THAT CHAPTER SAYS, “IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYBODY TO HELP YOU UP WHEN YOU'RE ALL ALONE, PITY ON YOU.”*

*YOU NEED PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH.*

*FORTUNATELY GOD HAS DESIGNED A CUSTOM-MADE SUPPORT NETWORK JUST FOR YOU. THAT IS CALLED THE CHURCH. CHURCH IS NOT SOMETHING YOU GO TO. CHURCH IS NOT AN EVENT YOU ATTEND. CHURCH IS A FAMILY THAT GOD MEANT FOR YOU TO BE CONNECTED TO, TO BE A PART OF. HE WANTS YOU TO HAVE RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS AND FELLOWSHIP IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, IN THE FAMILY OF GOD.*

*YOU NEED PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH!*

*WHEN YOU GET BUSY THE FIRST THING THAT GETS SHORT-CHANGED IN YOUR LIFE ARE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS. YOU START SKIMMING BACK – RELATIONAL SKIMMING. THE FIRST RELATIONSHIP THAT GETS HURT WHEN YOU GET BUSY IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD. YOU START SAYING, “I DON’T HAVE TIME TO PRAY. I DON’T HAVE TIME TO TALK TO GOD. I DON’T HAVE TIME TO READ MY BIBLE. I DON’T HAVE TIME TO BE QUIET AND FOCUSED LIKE WE JUST TALKED ABOUT.” GOD ALWAYS GETS SHORT-CHANGED FIRST IN RELATIONSHIPS. AND THEN IF THE PRESSURE AND THE STRESS STAYS ON, YOU START CUTTING BACK IN YOUR FAMILY, AND YOU START CUTTING BACK IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS. “I DON’T HAVE TIME TO BE A PART OF A SMALL GROUP. I DON’T HAVE TIME TO GO TO MID WEEK WORSHIP. I DON’T HAVE TIME TO COME EVERY WEEKEND TO CHURCH.”*

*YOU’RE TOO BUSY. YOUR PRIORITIES ARE ALL OUT OF WHACK. AND I WANT TO TELL YOU FROM EXPERIENCE, I HAVE LEARNED PERSONALLY THAT WHEN YOU START SKIMPING ON RELATIONSHIPS IT ALWAYS COMES BACK TO HAUNT YOU. YOU’RE GOING TO GET HURT IN THE END. YOU CANNOT CUT BACK ON AN EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL NEED OF YOUR LIFE – PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH. IF YOU DON’T HAVE MEANINGFUL,*

*SUPPORTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE RELATIONSHIPS YOU'RE GOING TO GO UNDER AT SOME POINT IN YOUR LIFE.*

*THE BIBLE WARNS ABOUT THIS IN [HEBREWS 10:25](#) "LET US NOT NEGLECT OUR MEETING TOGETHER." WHY? BECAUSE YOU NEED IT. IT'S NOT JUST WHAT YOU HEAR AND LEARN, IT'S THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT YOU BUILD IN THOSE MEETINGS.*

### ***3. YOU NEED PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY.***

*YOU NEED POWER TO LIVE ON AND PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH BUT YOU ALSO NEED PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY. YOU NEED A CLEARLY THOUGHT-OUT PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE. YOU NEED A MORAL FOUNDATION. YOU NEED A CODE OF CONDUCT AND CONVICTION THAT GIVES YOU STABILITY WHEN EVERYTHING'S FLYING OFF THE WALL.*

*THE BIBLE SAYS THAT YOU WERE CREATED TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE MADE. AND GOD WANTS YOU TO LIVE WITH HIM IN ETERNITY BY DEVELOPING FIRST A RELATIONSHIP HERE ON EARTH. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SPEND FOREVER HERE ON EARTH. YOU'RE ONLY HERE 60, 70, 80, MAYBE 90 YEARS ON EARTH. WHEN YOUR BODY DIES, THAT'S NOT THE END OF YOU. YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP ON LIVING. WHERE YOU SPEND YOUR ETERNITY AND WHAT YOU DO IN ETERNITY IS LARGELY GOING TO BE DETERMINED BY HOW WELL YOU FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS OF GOD HERE ON EARTH. IF YOU DON'T DO TOO GOOD AT THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO TOO GOOD IN ETERNITY.*

*YOU ARE BEING TESTED. LIFE IS A TEST. IT IS NOT THE FINAL ACT. THIS IS THE WARM UP ACT. YOU ARE BEING TESTED BY HOW WELL YOU FOLLOW WHAT GOD SAYS TO DO IN HIS WORD. AND YOU NEED PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY. GOD'S GOING TO SEE IF YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE BY THEM OR NOT.*

EVERY PRINCIPLE YOU NEED FOR LIFE IS IN THIS BOOK. IT IS IN THE BIBLE AND THE BIBLE SAYS IN [PSALM 119:19](#) "I AM A PILGRIM HERE ON EARTH [THAT MEANS YOU'RE JUST PASSING THROUGH; YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STAY HERE] I NEED A MAP AND YOUR COMMANDS ARE MY CHART AND MY GUIDE." EVERYTHING YOU NEED IS RIGHT HERE – THE PRINCIPLES TO BUILD YOUR LIFE ON AND TO LIVE BY. THEY'RE RIGHT HERE.

HERE'S THE PROBLEM. GOD'S PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING ARE THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF CONVENTIONAL WISDOM. FIGURE OUT THE POPULAR THING TO DO AND IT'S ALMOST ALWAYS THE WRONG THING TO DO. BECAUSE GOD'S PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING ABOUT TIME MANAGEMENT AND GOD'S PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING ABOUT SEX AND GOD'S PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING ABOUT HOW YOU USE YOUR MONEY ARE THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHAT POPULAR CULTURE TELLS YOU. POPULAR CULTURE ALMOST ALWAYS GETS IT WRONG. THEY SAY, "YOU EARN YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN BY BEING GOOD ENOUGH. AND IF YOUR GOOD WORKS ARE BETTER THAN YOUR BAD WORKS, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT." SO YOU WORK REAL HARD AND HOPE TO GET INTO HEAVEN. GOD SAYS, "NOT A CHANCE. THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN EARN YOUR WAY INTO A PERFECT PLACE. IT'S A GIFT. YOU MUST ACCEPT IT BY FAITH IN MY SON. IT'S A FREE GIFT OF GRACE. ACCEPT IT." POPULAR CULTURE SAYS, GET ALL YOU CAN, GET IT AS FAST AS YOU CAN AND DON'T LET ANYBODY ELSE HAVE ANY OF IT. GOD SAYS, "THE WAY TO BE HAPPY IS TO GIVE YOUR LIFE AWAY. A MAN'S LIFE DOES NOT CONSIST OF THE ABUNDANCE OF THINGS HE POSSESSES." LEARN TO GIVE, LEARN TO SHARE BECAUSE HAPPINESS COMES FROM BEING GENEROUS FROM BEING GIVING.