

LIFE OF FAITH.

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Lesson . 4 . CONDITIONS OF CONTINUOUS **CONTACT**

AMO 3:3 NIV Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?

1JO 3:21 NIV Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God

1. SINCERITY

1JO 3:21 NIV Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

Illustration: BILLY GRAHAM AT OXFORD; GENESIS ? WHICH COMMAND NOT KEEPING.

(a) OBEDIENCE IS FOR OUR OWN GOOD

DEU 6:24 NIV The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.

Saul told ot kill Amalekites: failed and an Amalekite killed him

1 Sam 15:3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. (KJV)

2 Sam 1:16 And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD's anointed. (KJV)

ILLUSTRATION : JACK AND CIGARETTES: RAISED FROM DEAD IN HOSPITAL

(b) HUMILITY IS KEY

DEU 8:16 NIV He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

illustration: FINDOCHTY BUTCHER AND FAMILY SAVED AFTER LEFT

(c) WHOLE-HEARTEDNESS IS ESSENTIAL

KING HEZEKIAH = 2CH 31:21 NIV In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered.

Illustration: YONGE CHO IN KOREA HAD TO SPECIFY BICYCLE ETC. IN PRAYER

(d) LOVE FOR OTHER CHRISTIANS IS COMMANDED

1JO 3:23 NIV And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

PSA 1:1 NIV Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

PSA 1:2 NIV But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Illustration: WATFORD MAN AND HARD HEART

(e) HOLINESS WITH GOD IS VITAL

MAT 6:33 NIV But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

ILLUSTRATION: JOE AND SHANKHILL SHOP:NO SUNDAYS OR CIGARETTES

(f) RELIANCE MUST BE PLACED ON GOD ALONE & NOT COMBINE WITH OTHERS NOT CONSECRATED

NEH 2:20 NIV I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."

ILLUSTRATION: George Mueller life of faith: not take from those in debt.

2. SURRENDER

(a) WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT WHATEVER GOD GIVES, EITHER PROSPERITY OR POVERTY

PHI 4:11 NIV I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Illustration: Quantas Flight to Singapore on 30th Wedding Anniversary and wine:arrival to find just dormitory with toilets in another block

(b) CONTENTMENT WITH CHRIST & NOT JUST WHAT HE GIVES

1TI 6:6 NIV But godliness with contentment is great gain

ILLUSTRATION; Cornish Pastor BILLY BRAY praises Lord: needs pulpit: given half crown:outbid: auction man cannot fit cupboard into House: FREE TRANSPORT !

(c) SEEK THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

LUK 18:29 NIV "I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life.

ILLUSTRATION: GOD'S VISION ON HAWAII TV: WOMAN TO SHOOT FAITHLESS HUSBAND: REPENTS AND LIVES SAVED BY TV SHOW !

(d) THANKFULNESS IS KEY

MAT 15:36 NIV Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.

ILLUSTRATION: Russian Pastor praises Lord with no food:think he is mad and gets food !

ILLUSTREATION: MALAYSIA IPOH: creatures on floor with no aircon: praise:doctor cancels and we get air con and hot water accomodation !!

3. SEEKING MORE OF GOD

HOS 6:3 NIV Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth."

(a) SEEK TO ENLARGE YOUR OBEDIENCE & DEPENDENCE

cf UZZIAH sought God who used Zacheriah

2CH 26:5 NIV He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success.

ILLUSTRATION: General Allenby relied on God to take Jerusalem from the Turks: read Scripture Isa 31:5:airplanes & Turks ran !

(b) SEEK TO KNOW MORE OF GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURES

PSA 1:2 NIV But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

ILLUSTRATION: CT STUDD STAYED UP ALL NIGHT TO MAKE SURE KEEPING GOD'S COMANDS AND CLAIMED CHRIST'S ANSWERS TO PRAYER PROMISE:

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (KJV)

(c) SLOTHFULNESS AND LACK OF WORK REJECTED BY THOSE ON LIFE OF FAITH

PRO 6:11 NIV and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man. 12 A scoundrel and villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth,13 who winks with his eye, signals with his feet and motions with his fingers,14 who plots evil with deceit in his heart-- he always stirs up dissension.15 Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant; he will suddenly be destroyed--without remedy.16 There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him:17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood,18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil,19 a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

ILLUSTRATION: JOHN BURTON IN CONGO AND PAINTED: BELGIAN GOPVERNOR INSULTED HIM, PRIMED BY RCS : GAVE PICTURES & MONEY TO RED CROSS

(d) SEEK LESS THE APPROVAL OF MEN & MORE THE APPROVAL OF GOD

JOH 5:44 NIV How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God

?

Illustration: DON ROGERS AND TOLD LEADERS TO STOP SHEEP STEALING: GOD TOLD HIM, HE WOULD DIE IF HE DID NOT PASS ON HIS WORD CORRECTLY !

LEN BETTS AND TEDDY BOY SAVED AT FOCHABERS IN SCOTLAND

4. SERVICE TO OTHERS IS VITAL

MAT 10:8 NIV Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

(a) TIME MUST BE GIVEN TO GOD

MAT 6:11 NIV Give us today our daily bread.

MAT 4:4 NIV Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Mark 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, JESUS went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. (KJV)

ILLUSTRATION: Dr Ken Mc All and morning QT:AVOIDED JAP MACHINE GUNS

(b) MONEY & HELP GIVEN TO THE POOR

2CO 9:8 NIV And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

ILLUSTRATION: Sharing with Bill & Eva in cottage: half pot of porridge replenished

(C) OBSERVE GOD'S LAWS OF GIVING

Firstfruits

LEV 2:12 NIV You may bring them to the Lord as an offering of the firstfruits, but they are not to be offered on the altar as a pleasing aroma.

TITHING

MAL 3:10 NIV Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

ILLUSTRATION: computer failed and new one given in place

(d) SEEK TO BE A BLESSING RATHER THAN TO GET A BLESSING

cf King Solomon looked for wisdom to bless others

1KI 3:11 NIV So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

5. SPIRIT FILLING

(a) GIFTS OF SPIRIT FOR LEADING

cf Peter & Jesus

MAT 17:27 NIV "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

Illustration: Ballaghderreen and 100 saved:vision of accident: dropped 18 feet at Belcoo: unsaved garage owner gives us Ford to get on road again !

(b) LIFE OF FAITH KEEPS YOU RELYING ON THE HOLY SPIRIT !

Gal 3:5 He therefore that supplieth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, (doeth he it) by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?6

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness.7 Know therefore that they that are of faith, the same are sons of Abraham. (ASV)

ILLUSTRATION: BAPTIST PASTOR ROWLANDS: SOMETHING AGAINST HIM: CAR AND GLADYS AYLWARD: HOLY GHOST FLOWS AS I ACKNOWLEDGE FAULT & SOULS SAVED

THE LIFE OF FAITH. Keith Gerner
Lesson 4. CONDITIONS OF CONTINUOUS
CONTACT

1. SINCERITY.

- (A) Obedience is for our own good. Deut 6:24
- (B) Humility is key to faith. Deut 8:16
- (C) WHOLE-HEARTEDNESS IS ESSENTIAL. Cf. Hezekiah:2 Chron 31:21
- (D) LOVE for other Christians is commanded. 1 John 3:23
- (E) Holiness with God is vital. Matt 6:33
- (F) Reliance on God alone & not combined with unsaved. Neh 2:20

2. SURRENDER.

- (A) Willing to accept what God gives, either poverty or riches
- (B) Contentment with Christ, & not just His gifts. 1 Tim 6:6
- (C) Seek first the spread of the Gospel. Luke 18:29
- (D) Thankfulness is key to further blessing. Matt 15:36

EXERCISE No 4

1. WHAT BLESSINGS ARE PROMISED IN THE BIBLE TO THOSE WITH FAITH, FROM THE SCRIPTURES IN :

(a) Psalm 37:3 (b) Mark 9:23 (c) Mark 11:24 (d) John 6:35 (e) John 14:12

2. WHAT KIND OF CHARACTER IS SET OUT IN SCRIPTURE AS THAT OF A MAN WALKING UPRIGHTLY WITH GOD IN :

(a) Romans 8:1 (b) 2 Corinthians 5:7 (c) Ephesians 5:2 (d) Colossians 2:5-6 (e) 1 John 1:7

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