3 Priorities In The Christian's Life

This message is one that I have developed from an outline by Brother Tom Ward from many years ago. His thoughts were the skeleton upon which I have draped some flesh. I appreciate his insight and wisdom in the Scriptures.

During my many years in full time ministry God and God's men have shown me many things. Some of those stand out to me as absolute truths that have served to keep me in the ministry. God has shown us the Lordship of Jesus, His First Claim Principle (Luke 9:57-62), and the Exchanged Life Principle (2Corinthians 4). Some of the other truths are that the ministry is God's ministry (Psalm 127:1-2), the church is God's church and faithfulness to the Lord Jesus and His word is of utmost importance (1Corinthians 4).

I think that the principle that we find in this message may be the most important. This principle is found in: Hebrews 11:1-7 "3 PRIORITIES IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE"

Perhaps you have heard of this couple. I have given them pseudonyms as names. George and Sue. Saved, served God for a few years, then gradually they began to back out of the Christian life. Started slowly with backing out of their work at church, then they stopped giving, then missing church, and now they are part of the great crowd of "use-to-be's." Some call it "burnout" and some call them "drop-outs."

However, in churches and in homes all over America are those who are like these folks. They really haven't left God, they haven't left church; they have just faded away to the point where they are no longer doing anything for God. They are just hiding in the pews. Why do people lose their fire and fervor for God? Why isn't serving God exciting and enjoyable like it <u>used to be</u>?

Note Hebrews 11:1-2. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Faith is a product of a close, and intimate, relationship with God. These three men here in the verses that we read exemplify the priorities of a Christian's life.

I. Worship God Properly

- A. Life of Abel Genesis 4:1-4. Abel brought the right sacrifice. He learned to worship God onGod's terms. No one will serve God long who does not learn to worship God properly. Worship means "paying God homage, divine honors, reverence in adoration prayers, confession, thanksgiving and sacrifice." God's word gives us many examples, here it just one.
- B. Moses Exodus 33:11
 - 1. Face to face with God Exodus 33:11.
 - 2. Intimacy with God Exodus 33:13-18.
 - 3. Adoration of God Exodus 34:5-8, 14.
 - 4. Confession of sin Exodus 34:9.

- 5. Sacrifice for Him Exodus 34:12-17.
- C. Paul Colossians 3:10. See the chart below.

Our worship life will energize our spiritual life, and we will WALK with God.

- II. Walk with God. Hebrews 11:4 Enoch.
 - A. Enoch Walked with God. Genesis 5:24.

To walk with God is to pursue a course of life in which God directs your footsteps daily. It is to simply allow God to be in control of your life. Enoch and God walked hand in hand, and God directed Enoch all along the way.

- B. Paul Exhorted us to walk with God. Colossians 2:6; Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:16
- C. John Exhorted us to walk in the light. 1John 1:7; 2:6

 This walk with God will give our bodies strength to work for God without burning out.
- III. Work for God. It is important.
 - A. Noah worked for God. (Hebrews 1:7) It was important to do so. It saved his life and his family's life physically.
 - B. If we have our priorities in order work comes naturally. 2Timothy 3:16-17 How? Spend time with God Daily! Develop a close relationship with Him. Then Let God direct your walk with Him. Work will come naturally!