

# Basic Equipment for the Christian Life

(Routines that Lead to Risking More for Christ)

“Do I have a diet of God’s Word feeding me?”

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / April 19, 2015

## 1. The Bible doesn’t describe itself as an optional snack, but as **SUSTENANCE** necessary for life. You can’t live without it!

Matt. 4:3,4

<sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, “ **‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”**

John 4:34

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “**My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.**

**What about you?** Under what circumstances do you find yourself tempted to believe the lie that you can live without the Word of God?

As human beings, we certainly have needs that we need to tend to (food, clothing, money, etc.), but don’t ever be tempted to believe you have a greater need than a consistent, regular diet of every Word of God.

## 2. The Word of God **SANCTIFIES** us, making us more like our Savior and less like ourselves.

Col. 3:9,10

<sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> **and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**

All human beings are created in the image of God...but Christians are changed to look more like Him as our minds are continually renewed.

2 Tim. 3:16,17

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> **that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

2 Pet. 1:3ff

<sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him** who called us to his own glory and excellence

John 8:31

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “**If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,**

1 John 2:3-6

<sup>3</sup> And by this we know that we have come to know him, **if we keep his commandments.** <sup>4</sup> Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, <sup>5</sup> **but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.** By this we may know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup> **whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.**

**What about you?** Do you find yourself living more like Jesus today than you did in days gone by? Are you walking in the same way in which He walked?

### 3. The Word of God transforms our minds, changing how we SEE this life.

John 4:28a

<sup>28</sup> So the woman left her water jar...

**What about you?** The Samaritan woman “left her water jar.” Christ’s words changed what she valued, so getting water was no longer her top priority. She had a new perspective on life! **Do you feed enough on the Word of God to see it change your worldview? Does the Bible affect your priorities and value system?**

Rom. 12:2

<sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

As our mind is renewed, we are completely transformed. This isn’t just a slight change, but something *completely* different (as a caterpillar changes to a butterfly). The more we renew our minds, the better we’ll be at discerning God’s will for our lives as we seek to make decisions that are pleasing to Him (2 Cor. 5:9).

### 4. The Word of God transforms our hearts, changing what we SEEK and pursue.

John 4:28,29

<sup>28</sup> So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”

The Samaritan woman in John 4 was changed by Christ’s words, so much so that she boldly went into the town to tell others about Christ.

**What about you?** Do you read enough of your Bible that you’re emboldened to tell others to “Come and see” the Savior who changed your life?