

# Christian Spirituality in 2006

## Introduction:

The goal of every Christian is that at the end of our lives we would hear the words, “*Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord*” (Matt. 25:23). Our lives are likened unto Jacob’s who once summed up his life saying, “*few and evil have been the days of the years of my life...*” (Gen. 47:9). Each of our lives are like a book that has chapters of sorrow, suffering for righteousness sake, suffering in sickness, and general anxiety in relation to the church, home, work place, and often school. There are chapters of happiness and joy too; however, we see the hours, days, and months passing so fast that we scarce feel as though we can keep up. Our children grow up before our eyes and it is as though all of life is in fast motion. At the end of this whirlwind life what will God’s assessment be of us? How did I use the time God blessed me with on this earth? Does my autobiography measure up to God’s standards? (Jn. 12:48)

Though we cannot stop or slow time we can look with more purpose at our spiritual tasks and make a conscience effort to accomplish them. It seems that when life is passing like a blur and I am having a hard time keeping up I have slipped into spiritual unconsciousness. It is during these hours that I loose focus on the grand issue of life, i.e., making it to heaven and seeing to it that my family and friends do too. I may spend hours doing things that I just really don’t have the time to do. When my life is filled with doing things that entertain me I have lost focus on my spiritual responsibilities towards self and others. This lesson is designed to help each of us slow down in life by examining our spiritual responsibilities.

## I. The Christian’s Universal Objective is Heaven:

- A. At the end of 2006 you and I will be one year closer to our eternal abode.
- B. The anguish of life will be magnified for those who are unprepared for heaven (cf. Lk. 16:19ff).
- C. The glory of heaven (rest, immortality of bliss, and glorification) will belong to the faithful (I Cor. 15:50ff; Rev. 2:10; 21:3ff).

## II. The Christian’s Responsibility to be dedicated to Spiritual Growth

- A. Consider these commands (Eph. 3:19; 6:10).
- B. If the gospel saves (Rom. 1:16), when I abide therein (II Jn. 9), then let me dedicate time to know it (II Tim. 2:15).
- C. Let me have the spiritual determination to set aside time consuming self imposed projects to see to it that both my family and I know truth.

## III. The Christian’s Responsibility to Love Others

- A. God commands that His people be those who love (cf. I Jn. 4:7-8).
- B. Bible love demands that I think about not only self but others (Phil. 2:4):
  - 1. When my brother is suffering for the cause of Christ let me encourage, make less burdensome, and be merciful to him (cf. Phil. 2:1-5; I Thess. 3:1-3).
  - 2. When the church is experiencing troubles let me be filled with anxiety to the point that I will do something about it (cf. II Cor. 11:28).
  - 3. When I brother is in need of the physical necessities of life let me help if I can (I Jn. 3:17-18).
  - 4. When my brother is sick, emotionally bothered, and or lonely let me care and go visit such a one (James 1:27).
  - 5. When my brother is in sin let me have the courage to expose it (Eph. 5:11; Gal. 6:1-2).

**IV. The Christian's Responsibility to Edify other Saints**

- A. Let the Christian purpose to be at every assembly possible during 2006 so that we may build each other up in the knowledge of Christ (cf. Heb. 10:24-25).
- B. If we seldom come to Sunday AM and Wednesday PM Bible studies we are not following God's design for the church (cf. Eph. 4:11-14).

**V. The Christian's Responsibility to Teach the Lost**

- A. Pray for opportunities now (Eph. 6:18-20).
- B. Be on the look out for opportunities to preach (I Cor. 16:8-9; II Cor. 5:11).

**VI. The Christian's Responsibility to Promote a Godly environment in the Home (Col. 3:18-21):**

- A. Let us purpose to be stronger husbands and fathers (Eph. 5:25; 6:4).
- B. Stronger wives and mothers (Eph. 5:22-24; Titus 2:4-5).
- C. Obedient and respectful children (Eph. 6:1-3).

**Conclusion:**

Let us all resolve to live godly in 2006. The Christian's speech, home, and general walk in life is to be dictated by the Word of God. If we have no plans to gain greater knowledge of God's word now then how do we expect its saving instructions to help us latter? May the Lord help us to seize every opportunity in this life by taking time to spiritually grow, teach our families and neighbors the gospel, and edifying each other NOW before its everlasting too late.