

*Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.*

**James 4:8**

## Store In My Heart

### 1Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Written toward the end of his long stay in Ephesus around 55 AD, this letter to the brethren in Corinth deals with several problems that had arisen since they had obeyed. Division and sexual imorality are dealt with as well as some issues with spiritual gifts. Paul urges them to focus on helping one another serve God. His passage on love points them, and us today, to the heart of many of these issues. They were not giving themselves to the work, rather they were expecting the work to give to them. They were focused on self rather than others and God and it was keeping them from being blessed by their relationship together with God. Heed Paul.



# 7 Things That Will Help You Grow Spiritually

**Grover Stevens**

**Live and Work** to reach others each day as if you knew the world was going to come to an end next Sunday night. Think of that feeling of urgency and priority! (Read **2Peter 3:1-12**)

**Be As Enthusiastic** about the church and its services as you would be if there were an overflowing crowd each time. Think of the interest, anticipation, and excitement of an overflow crowd!

**Count Your Blessings.** Make a list of the things you are thankful to God for and thank Him for them one by one as you pray in your closet. This will help you to be grateful (**Philippians 4:6**). It will also help you to realize your dependence on God (**Acts 17:24- 25,28; John 15:5**).

**Make & Maintain A List Of Your Faults.** And pray for forgiveness and help to overcome them as you truly strive to overcome them. This will help us see that we are really not as good as we think we are and how very much we really do need Christ for Savior. It will also help you to sympathize with the faults of others (**James 5:16; Galatians 6:1**).

**Keep A Quiet Time.** Set aside 30 minutes every day to spend with God in prayer, Bible study, and meditation. If you really love someone or a game you want to spend some time with them. Just so, if you truly love God you want to spend some time alone with Him. (**Psalms 1:2; 1Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1**). First century Christians kept an "hour of prayer" (**Acts 13:1-2**).

**Visit Someone For Christ Each Week.** Visit some member you do not know very well; or a sick person; or a visitor to our services; or a weak member who needs encouragement; or someone who needs to become a Christian.

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## Find Us Online

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## For Our Information

Vickie McNees fell last week and will be visiting the doctor again on Monday.

John Ragsdale is feeling better now after being sick early last week.

Annette Gray was also sick last week, but is better now.

Joyce Venable has not been feeling well the past week also.

The Keislars & Jacksons should return this week.

**Pray for safety, courage & healing.**

**Reach Another Person.** Conduct a Bible class in your home once a month and invite your relatives, friends and neighbors to attend. The preacher or elders will assist you if you want them to. **Matthew 5:12-15; James 5:20; Daniel 12:3.**

There are 168 hours in a week. If you were to attend Bible Study, morning and evening worship on Sundays, Bible study on Wednesday, 30 minutes 6 days a week in Bible reading, prayer, and meditation, and conduct an hour long study once a month, you would be giving God less than 10 hours a week, leaving you 158.

(Ten hours each week invested in bringing our self closer to God. That is not much when we consider the return on that investment will be eternity in heaven. Yet some will say, "You did not include sleep in that calculation." or "That does not include time spent traveling for those services and studies." They are right, sorta.

What if we compared the time we give to God with what we spend in other areas that are interesting to us? Do you have any favorite TV shows that you watch regularly? Two 1 hour shows each weekday will take up 10 hours of your time. One football game can take up to 3 hours to watch. How much news do you watch each day? Spend a couple of weeks tracking your video time and see how it compares to your time for God.

While we are talking about screens, have you ever tracked your time on your phone, tablet, and/or computer? Facebook, Instagram, games, Twitter, texting, messenger, etc all use your time. Have you ever watched a video on YouTube then clicked on one of the interesting suggested videos, then another, then another, etc, finally realizing you just spent over an hour following that trail?

Maybe you are not into such things. Maybe you read a lot. How long do you spend reading the newspaper each week? Do you check the sales papers for bargains? Maybe you read novels. How much time do you spend reading each day? When I looked closely at how much time I spent reading novels and short stories, I decided it would be better to spend at least some of that time reading the Bible more and give more attention to religious material. Even with that change I still probably spend 5 hours or more each week reading secular writings.

The point of my rambling is to get us to think about the time we spend with God and His Word. Brother Stevens list will give us some ways to draw closer to God and be stronger in our faith and service, if we put it into practice. It will probably mean a change in some of our activities. It will certainly mean we must set God in a more prominent place in our daily life. That will also help get us closer to Him and strengthen our faith. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!