

# Back To Basics

- Strengthen Our **FAITH**
- Fortify Our **HOPE**
- Manifest Our **LOVE**
- Enhance Our **JOY**
- Enjoy Our **PEACE**

A disturbing trend, seen too often in many churches, is a **Lack of Interest**, a **Lack of Enthusiasm**, or a **Lack of Concern** (**apathy!**). For some, we occasionally "go through the motions", without much **SINCERITY** of heart, or **ZEAL** in our,

- singing, praying, Bible Study, or Remembrance of the Lord's Death in the Lord's Supper.

The problem might be akin to an athlete or a sports team, which is "in a slump".

Such a person or team "goes through the motions", but they are not performing up to their true potential.

**The solution in sports:** Work on "the fundamentals".

The same is true with Christians. When we find ourselves "in a SPIRITUAL slump"...

- We need to stress the Fundamentals, and get "**Back To The Basics!**", which is the title of the lesson this morning.

Concerning the church at Ephesus, our Lord said,

- "I have somewhat **AGAINST** thee, because thou hast **LEFT** thy **FIRST LOVE**.<sup>5</sup> **REMEMBER** therefore **FROM** whence thou art **FALLEN**, and **REPENT**, and **DO** the **FIRST WORKS**; or else I will **COME** unto thee **QUICKLY**, and will **REMOVE** thy candlestick out of his place, **EXCEPT** thou **REPENT**." ([Rev.2:4-5](#))

In this lesson, we would like to stress some of the "fundamentals" or "basics" that we need to get back to whenever our lives are in a "spiritual slump". Our first suggestion would be to...

## I. Strengthen Our Faith

### A. A Scriptural Definition of Faith is Found in [Heb. Chapter 11](#)

- "Now **FAITH** is the **SUBSTANCE** of things **HOPED** for, the **EVIDENCE** of things **NOT SEEN**." ([Heb.11:1](#))
1. The NIV may be helpful; it reads:
    - "Now **FAITH** is being **SURE** of what we **HOPE** for, and **CERTAIN** of what we **DO NOT SEE**."
  2. VINE'S describes faith as "A Firm Conviction."
  3. Some have suggested a description of faith as, "Trust + Obedience",
    - as "Faith with**OUT** Works is **DEAD**" ([Jms.2:20, 26](#))

### B. When We Consider the Importance of Faith

1. We'll notice that Faith in God, is Essential to Pleasing Him
  - "**without** Faith it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to **PLEASE** Him: for he that **COMETH** to God **MUST BELIEVE** that **He IS**, and that **He** is a **REWARDER** of them, that Diligently **SEEK** Him." ([Heb.11:6](#))
2. Faith in Jesus, is Essential to Finding Forgiveness and Eternal Life
  - Jesus said "ye shall **DIE** in your **SINS**: for **IF** ye believe **NOT** that **I AM**, ye shall **DIE** in your **SINS**." ([Jn.8:24](#))
  - "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book:<sup>31</sup> but these are written, that ye might believe, that Jesus **IS** the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have **LIFE** through His name (that is, LIFE through His authority and power)." ([Jn.20:30-31](#))
3. Without Faith, the Only Alternative, is Doubt, accompanied with Fear, as Peter experienced when he asked,
  - "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water."<sup>29</sup> And He said, **COME**.  
And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to **GO to Jesus**.<sup>30</sup> But when he **SAW** the wind boisterous, he was **AFRAID**; and beginning to sink,  
he cried, saying, Lord, **SAVE** me.<sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and **CAUGHT** him, and said unto him, **O thou of LITTLE faith, wherefore didst thou DOUBT?**" ([Matt.14:28-31](#))

### C. If We'll Strengthen Our Faith

1. We should remember, that it is The Word of God, which is designed to Produce Faith
  - "So then **FAITH** cometh **BY** hearing, and **HEARING** (cometh) **BY** the word of God." ([Rom.10:17](#))
2. Through diligent study of God's Word (the Bible), we **CAN** "strengthen" our faith!

So when we find ourselves in a “spiritual slump”, we should pick up our Bible, and Allow it to Rebuild that "Confident Trust" that we once had! It will also help us to...

## II. Fortify Our Hope

### A. By Way of Defining Hope,

1. VINE'S says that it involves "**The Happy Anticipation of Good**"
2. It is NOT wishful thinking, or an insecure "I hope so"
3. But as VINE'S describes it further, it is "**A Confident Expectation**"
4. A common definition of hope is "**Desire + Expectation**"

### B. Notice, the Importance of Hope

1. Hope is Necessary to PER-SEVERE
  - “**IF we HOPE** for that we see not, then **DO** we **with patience WAIT** for it.” ([Rom.8:25](#))

Regarding the church OF the Thessa-Ionians, Paul remembered their,

  - “**work of FAITH**, and **labour of LOVE**, and **patience of HOPE**, **IN** our Lord Jesus Christ, **IN** the sight of God and our Father;” ([1Thess.1:3](#))
2. Hope is Necessary for Our Motivation to Become PURE.
  - “Beloved, **NOW** are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear **WHAT** we shall be: but we **KNOW** that, **WHEN** He shall **appear**, we shall **BE LIKE** Him; for we shall **SEE** Him, **AS** He **IS**.  
<sup>3</sup> And every man that hath this **HOPE** in him, **PURIFIETH** himself, even **AS** He is **PURE**.” ([1Jn.3:2-3](#))
3. Hope is Necessary to Increase Opportunities to EVANGELIZE.
  - “but **SANCTIFY** the Lord God **IN** your **HEARTS**: and **BE READY** **always** to **GIVE** an **ANSWER**, to every man that **ASKETH** you, a **REASON** of the **HOPE** that is **IN** you, **WITH** **meekness** and **fear**.” ([1Pet.3:15](#))
4. Without Hope, We Not Only Lose Our Souls, ...We Won't Be Any Good for Saving Others!

### C. How Do We Fortify Our Hope?

1. The Word of God was Written to PRODUCE Kope.
  - “For whatsoever things were written aforetime, were **WRITTEN** for our **Learning**, that we through **Patience** and **Comfort** of the **Scriptures**, might have **HOPE**.” ([Rom.15:4](#))
  - a. Through its revelation of God's dealings with man in the past, we know God keeps His promises.
  - b. This encourages us to expect Him to deliver on His promises for the future.
2. Peter Encourages Us To,
  - “gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and **HOPE** to the end, for the grace that is to be brought unto you, **AT** the revelation of Jesus Christ;” ([1Pet.1:13](#))
  - a. Where do we read of the "grace" that is to come when Christ is revealed?
  - b. In the Scriptures, of course!
  - c. Nothing "fortifies" our **HOPE** better than those wonderful passages that reveal the eternal destiny of the saints!

When an athlete gets Discouraged, he or she is often told to "Keep your Eye on the Prize!"  
So the Christian must also, and it is With the Aid of God's Word, that we can Keep our Focus where it Ought to Be.

Getting "Back To The Basics" will also include an effort to...

### III. Manifest Our Love

#### A. Paul gives the best definition of love in [1Cor.13:4-8](#)

- "Charity (that is **LOVE**) suffereth long (or is patient), and is kind;
- charity envieth not (or is not jealous);
- charity vaunteth not itself (that is, love doesn't brag or boast),
- is not puffed up (or isn't arrogant),
- <sup>5</sup> doth not behave itself unseemly (that is, doth NOT behave itself disgracefully, irritably or resentfully),
- (love) seeketh not her own (or her own benefit),
- is not easily provoked,
  
- (love) thinketh no evil (or doesn't keep an account of a wrong suffered);  
Someone has suggested that "thinketh no evil",  
Would imply "not assuming the worst motives of others"
  
- (LOVE) <sup>6</sup> rejoiceth not in iniquity (or unrighteousness),
- but rejoiceth in the truth;
- <sup>7</sup> beareth all things (or keeps every confidence),
- believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
- <sup>8</sup> Charity (or love) never faileth: " ([1Cor.13:4-8](#))

1. A simple definition that is easy to remember: Biblical Love is "Active Goodwill"

#### B. Love is of Great Importance

1. Expressing Love Gives Us "Assurance" of Our **SALVATION**.

- "We **KNOW** that we have **PASSED** from **death** **UNTO** **life**, **BECAUSE** we **LOVE** the **BRETHREN**.  
He that **LOVETH NOT** his **BROTHER** **abideth** in **DEATH**." ([1Jn.3:14](#))
- "My little children, let us **NOT** **LOVE** in word, **NEITHER** in tongue; but **IN DEED** and **IN TRUTH**.  
<sup>19</sup> And hereby we **KNOW** that we are **OF** the **TRUTH**,  
and shall **ASSURE** our **hearts** **BEFORE HIM**." ([1Jn.3:18-19](#))

2. Expressing Love Assures Us that God Will Answer Our **PRAYERS**.

- "And whatsoever we **ASK**, we **RECEIVE** of Him,  
**BECAUSE** we **KEEP** His Commandments, and **DO** those things that are **PLEASING** in His sight.  
<sup>23</sup> And this **IS** His commandment, That we should **BELIEVE** on the Name of His Son Jesus Christ,  
and **LOVE** one another, **AS He Gave** us **COMMANDMENT**." ([1Jn.3:22-23](#))

3. Expressing Love Re-assures Us that We **ABIDE** In God, and He In Us.

- "Beloved, Let us **LOVE** one another; for **LOVE IS OF GOD**;  
and every one that **LOVETH** is **BORN** of God, and **KNOWETH** God.  
<sup>8</sup> He that **loveth** **NOT**, **knoweth** **NOT** God; for **GOD IS LOVE**." ([1Jn.4:7-8](#))
- "No man hath seen God at any time. **IF** we **LOVE** one another, **GOD DWELLETH** IN US,  
and **HIS LOVE** is **PERFECTED** IN US." ([1Jn.4:12](#))
- "And we have Known and Believed, the **LOVE** that God hath **TO** us.  
**God IS LOVE**; and he that **dwelleth** **IN** love, **dwelleth** **IN** God, and God **IN** him." ([1Jn.4:16](#))

## C. How Do We Manifest Our Love?

1. Like the Thessa-Ionians, We Can Be TAUGHT By God How to Love.
  - “But as touching **brotherly LOVE**, ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are **Taught of God**, to **LOVE one another**.” ([1Thess.4:9](#))
2. Jesus Taught Us How To Love By His SACRIFICIAL Life.
  - “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to **lay down our lives for the brethren**.” ([1Jn.3:16](#))
3. God Taught Us How To Love by Giving His Son As A PROPITIATION for Sins.
  - “In this was manifested the **LOVE** of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.  
<sup>10</sup> Herein is **LOVE**, not that we loved God, but that He **LOVED** us, and sent His Son to be the Propitiation for our sins.  
<sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so **LOVED** us, we ought also to **LOVE one another**.” ([1Jn.4:9-11](#))
4. Through careful meditation upon what the Bible reveals, concerning God's Love for us, we can "manifest" our love for others!

As we continue to list what is involved in getting "Back To The Basics", we would also suggest that we..

## IV. Enhance Our Joy

### A. In Defining Joy

1. We will notice that the Greek word is CHARA, and is closely related to the word CHARIS.
  - a. CHARIS (or grace) is "undeserved favor" which in turn gives JOY, pleasure, delight.
  - b. CHARA (or joy), then, is the **Response** we have **TO** undeserved favor.
2. Someone has suggested to think of JOY as the "Delightful Response" to the Grace we Receive from God.

### B. The Importance of Joy Can Be Realized, by observing its essential element, of what constitutes the Kingdom of God.

- “for the kingdom of God is **NOT** meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and **JOY** in the Holy Spirit.” ([Rom.14:17](#))
1. Joy lightens the burden of trials, in this life.
    - [1Pet.1:6-9](#) reads, “Wherein ye greatly **REJOICE**, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:  
<sup>7</sup> that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory, at the appearing of Jesus Christ: <sup>8</sup> whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye **REJOICE** with **JOY** unspeakable and full of glory:  
<sup>9</sup> receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.” (that’s [1Pet.1:6-9](#))
    - “But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; <sup>33</sup> partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. <sup>34</sup> For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took **JOYFULLY** the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven, a better, and an enduring substance.” ([Heb.10:32-34](#))
  2. It is often the loss of this virtue of Joy, that is most evident in the lives of many christians!

## C. How Do We Enhance Our Joy?

1. Both Jesus and His apostles gave us Words, whereby our Joy might be Full.
  - “These things have I **SPOKEN** unto you, that my **JOY** might remain IN you, and that your **JOY** might be **FULL**.” ([Jn.15:11](#); [1Jn.1:4](#))
    - a. Once again we see the value of daily Bible study.
    - b. Just as the Bible can...
      - 1) Strengthen Our faith
      - 2) Fortify Our hope
      - 3) Manifest Our love ...so it can "enhance" Our joy!
2. Jesus also stressed the importance of **PRAYER** in regards to **JOY**.
  - “Hitherto have ye **Asked NOTHING** in My Name: **ASK**, and ye shall **RECEIVE**, that your **JOY** may be **FULL**.” ([Jn.16:24](#))
    - a. Answered prayer, certainly excites the christian, and increases JOY!
    - b. So to the practice of daily Bible study, a key to getting "Back To The Basics!" is the habit of regular prayer.

There is one more "basic" we would like to point out, before we conclude this study. We should also...

## V. Enjoy Our Peace

### A. Let's Define Peace

1. VINE'S describes peace as "harmonious relations".
2. It is used to describe such harmony,
  - a. Between Men
  - b. Between Nations
  - c. Between God and man
  - d. And One's own self
3. A lack of peace, often contributes to the "spiritual stagnation" that afflicts many Christians.

### B. Like Joy, the Importance of PEACE is realized, by observing, that it is an essential element, of what constitutes the kingdom of God

- “for the **kingdom of God** is not meat and drink; but **righteousness**, and **PEACE**, and **joy** in the Holy Spirit.  
<sup>18</sup> For he that **IN** these **things** **SERVETH** Christ, is **ACCEPTABLE** to God, and **APPROVED** of men.  
<sup>19</sup> Let us therefore **FOLLOW AFTER** the **things** which **Make** for **PEACE**, and things wherewith one may **EDIFY** another.” ([Rom.14:17-19](#))
1. Peace with brethren, contributes to receiving PEACE from God.
    - “Finally, brethren, farewell. **BE** perfect, **BE** of good comfort, **BE** of one mind, **Live in PEACE**; and **the God of Love and PEACE**, shall be **WITH** you.” ([2Cor.13:11](#))
  2. And having PEACE with God, has a positive effect, in our PEACE with our enemies.
    - “When a man's ways, please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to **be at PEACE** with him.” ([Prov.16:7](#))

## C. If We are going to Enjoy Our Peace

1. We need to have Peace with God FIRST, as the Bible says.
  - “Therefore being justified by faith, we have **PEACE** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:” ([Rom.5:1](#))
2. Enjoying our Peace, continues in Response to fervent Prayer.
  - “Be careful for nothing (that is, Don’t Worry); but in every thing **BY PRAYER** and supplication WITH thanksgiving **LET** your **REQUESTS** be **Made Known unto God**.  
<sup>7</sup> And the **PEACE of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall **KEEP** your hearts and minds THROUGH Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.4:6-7](#))
- a. Just as prayer can "Enhance" our JOY
- b. So can prayer help us to "Enjoy" our **PEACE**, that surpasses all understanding!

## VI. In-Conclusion

1. Faith, Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace:  
Simple words, yet so essential to the "abundant life" Jesus has to offer those, who COME to Him.
2. WHY are they often, in short supply, in the lives of many Christians?
  - a. Because some neglect two fundamental tools, which God Provides FOR them
  - b. The spiritual tools of, **God’s Word** and the blessed privilege of **Prayer!**
3. Whenever we find ourselves in a “spiritual slump”, we need to let these two avenues of COMMUNICATION with God, be the KEY to:
  - a. Strengthening our **FAITH!**
  - b. Fortifying our **HOPE!**
  - c. Manifesting our **LOVE!**
  - d. Enhancing our **JOY!**
  - e. And Enjoying our **PEACE!**
4. Restoring the **BASIC** elements of the abundant life, found only **IN Christ**, is not a mystery:
  - a. Receive the implanted Word of God! - [James 1:21](#)
  - b. Continue earnestly in Prayer! – [Col.4:2](#)

Always remember the urgent need of **REPENTANCE**, lest we perish ([Lk.13:3](#))

And to **OBEY** through the “Washing of Water, by the Word” ([Eph.5:25-27](#)), to Wash away our sins ([Acts 22:16](#))

And **ENDURE** until the end, to be **SAVED** ([Mk.13:13](#); [Matt.24:13](#)).

**It’s just that Simple!**

If we can help, please **COME** as together we stand and sing.