WHY PASTORS CHANGE CHURCHES

Text: Acts 20:28

Intro: When a church and preacher depend upon the Lord and allow the Lord to guide them a pastor will have the right church and a church will have the right pastor. The average pastorate is between 2 to 4 years. One church was 25 years old and had had 21 pastors. The Bible doesn’t say how long a pastor should stay at one church. I want to share with you why some pastors change churches. I know that the Lord will lead preachers and preachers should follow, but I also know pastors have left churches for other reasons.

I. PASTORS CHANGE CHURCHES BECAUSE OF COMPLACENCY OF THE PEOPLE.

A. The meaning
   1. Complacency means to be content or self-satisfied.
   2. It means to be content with what you are doing. You don’t want to do any more or any less.
   3. Sometimes it carries the idea that you cannot stir them up to do any more.

B. The members
   1. When pastors feel led to preach a portion of God’s truth, they want to see some results and effects.
   2. They want to see lives changed and challenged to do more.
   3. For a young pastor, moves and changes are more important because they are expressions of and fruits of his labor.

C. The morale
   1. Pastors often say, “I feel I need to change because someone else can challenge them more.”
   2. The pastor feels a lack of faithful attendance is his fault and people are blaming him.

3. The truth is some people think any change needed would be made if they got a new pastor.

4. One pastor resigned a good church. No problems. Poor morale can cause a pastor to do this.

II. PASTORS CHANGE CHURCHES BECAUSE OF CONFLICTS OF PEOPLE.

A. The meaning
   1. What is a conflict? It is to strike together; a contest
   2. It means to clash; be antagonistic; sharp disagreement or opposition.
   3. We have had conflicts at this church. Every church will have them.

B. The members
   1. Every conflict will involve people. People cause conflicts.
   2. Sometimes pastors feel more like referees than pastors. We feel like janitors because we are always cleaning up someone’s mess up.
   3. Most conflicts are contests. Someone is out to win and get their way. Some people major on minors and minor on major things in a church.

C. The morale
   1. God calls men to preach His Word. We are to shepherd the flock. We are to teach and train people to win souls.
   2. It is very tiring to constantly deal with a lot of problems. A peace maker gets very exhausted.
   3. Pastors have changed churches because of a bickering, backbiting, and battling membership.
III. PASTORS CHANGE CHURCHES BECAUSE OF CARNALITY AMONG PEOPLE.
   A. The meaning
      1. Carnal means in or of the flesh; bodily, material or worldly.
      2. It is the opposite of spiritual. Carnal minded means worldly minded.
      3. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "And I brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ." I Corinthians 3:1
   B. The members
      1. The Lord desires that every saved person grow and develop into maturity as a saved person. II Peter 3:18; I Peter 2:2
      2. Paul told the Ephesians to put away bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking, and malice. Eph. 4:31.
      3. When your attitudes, actions, and articulations are carnal something is wrong with you.
   C. The morale
      1. If only God's people would listen to God's man.
      2. If members would talk and act like Jesus they would be spiritual.
      3. When church leaders or those who want to be leaders are carnal, pastors may move to another church.

IV. PASTORS CHANGE CHURCHES BECAUSE OF COMPLAINING MEMBERS.
   A. The meaning
      1. Complaining means to utter expressions of grief, pain, or dissatisfaction.
      2. It means to utter expressions of annoyance or resentment; to find fault.
      3. To accuse formally of an offense; to present an accusation.
   B. The members
      1. Members of the Lord's churches can complain.
      2. It is discouraging when members are vocal and open with their complaining.
      3. It is heart breaking when members voice complaints to those who are willing to listen.
   C. The morale
      1. A griping complaining membership will cause a pastor to leave.
      2. The Lord's work is always improved by our looking at what we are doing and seeing if we need to change.
      3. When members backbite, bicker, and fight among themselves, pastors may choose to leave.

V. PASTORS CHANGE CHURCHES BECAUSE OF THE CORRUPTION OF PEOPLE.
   A. The meaning
      1. Corrupt is used to mean changed from a sound condition to an unsound one; spoiled; contaminated; rotten.
   B. The members
      1. Members becoming immoral in their conduct.
      2. Members living together outside of marriage. Members who have affairs.
      3. Members may drink, steal, go to jail for wrong doing. Members who use illegal drugs.
      4. Deacons and witnesses should help correct the corruption in a membership.
   C. The morale
      1. When corruption is ignored, covered up, it hurts a church.
      2. Some members expect the pastor to do it all when it comes to the correction.
      3. Pastors change churches because of corruption and members not willing to do anything about it.

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THE OLD OLD STORY
Text: John 3:16
Intro: Our text is the best known and least believed scripture in the Bible. It has been called the Key Verse of the Bible. It is at least that. It has SALVATION, SERVICE, LIFE, DEATH, HEAVEN, AND HELL all involved in it, plus much more. It covers all the basic doctrines, either directly or indirectly. It is PROFOUND in its SIMPLICITY. It presents the truth in a new way each time it is studied.
I. "GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD."
   A. God's love is unequaled - John 15:13,14.
   B. God's love is unrestricted - II Peter 3:9.
   C. God's love is undeserved - Romans 5:8-8.
   D. God's love is unearned - I John 4:10.
II. "HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON."
   A. His powerful - Son Col. 1:16,17.
   B. His prestigious Son - II Cor. 8:9.
   C. His perfect Son - Phil. 2:5-8.
   D. His precious Son - I Peter 1:18,19.
III. "WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH SHOULD NOT PERISH."
   A. A permanent punishment - Ecclesiastes 11:3.
   B. A proclaimed punishment - Romans 1:18.
   C. A purposeful punishment - II Thess. 1:8,9.
IV. "HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."
   A. A time of exciting awareness - I Cor. 2:9
B. A time of expanding knowledge · Eph. 2:6,7.
C. A time of excelling experience · Rev. 21:4.
D. A time of exalting praise · Rev. 22:5.

V. SUMMARY:
A. "God so loved the world" · More than we can imagine.
B. He gave His most precious offering · His Son.
C. So we wouldn't perish - our sentence.
D. So we could have everlasting life · It is available to every person on earth.

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HAVE A "MARY" CHRISTMAS
Intro: God's plan is often accomplished through the agency of human beings. While the birth of Christ was a supernatural event in time and space, we must not forget the human element. A virgin girl named Mary has much to do with our Christmas! Let's notice three things about Mary today.

I. MARY WAS CHOSEN · Vs 26-30.
A. Upon what did God base His choice of a mother for Jesus?
   1. She had to be a virgin - sex outside of marriage is a sin.
   2. Dr. Ironside writes: "When He (God) chose a young woman for the high honor of becoming the mother of the Savior, He did not take some frivolous worldly girl, living in carelessness and enjoying a butterfly existence. He chose a pious, lovely, young woman, who delighted in doing the will of God and ever sought to be subject to His Word." (Addresses on Luke, p.34)

B. We are chosen!
   1. Ephesians 1:3,4
   2. John 15:16,19
   3. I Peter 2:9,10

II. MARY WAS INFORMED · Vs 31-35.
A. God's messenger (Gabriel) revealed God's plan to Mary.
   1. His name shall be Jesus · Vs 31ff.
   2. What a blessing to be informed by God.

B. We are informed!
   1. We know God's plan of salvation · Eph. 2:8,9.
   2. We know God's plan for our lives--become like Jesus - Romans 8:28,29; Luke 6:27-35.

III. MARY WAS FACED WITH THREE CHOICES.
A. Picture the situation: A 17-year old girl, in love with Joseph, is suddenly told she is going to have a baby! She could have done one of three things.
   1. Mary could have said, "NO! I don't want a baby. What would people say? Joseph? NO!"
   2. Mary could have said, "O.K. - I'LL DO IT. I'll bring a child into the world, by my own means and ability."
   3. But she chose the third response: Luke 1:38 "And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."
   4. Mary chose to give herself to God's will.

B. We are faced with the same three choices!
   1. We can say "NO" to God.
   2. We can say "Yes, but by my strength in my way."
   3. Or we can say "Yes, I yield to your will God in your way and time."

Conclusion: Luke 11:27 "And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed (is) the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked." 28 "But he said, Yea rather, blessed (are) they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

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GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS
Focus: The letter "G"

Text: I Timothy 3:15
Introduction:
A. The DEVELOPMENT process is continual.
B. The DECISION making is constant.
C. The DISCOURSE for our consideration - GOOD CHURCH MEMBERS SHOULD BE----

I. GENUINE!
A. The MEANING -
The term genuine means to be real, authentic, sincere, and not hypocritical.
B. The MUSINGS

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1. During the earthly ministry of Christ, one readily ascertains that Christ was more upset about the hypocrites than He was those who were called bad sinners.

2. Illustrated.
   a. John 8:1-11
   b. Matthew 23:13-32

II. GENTLE!
   A. The MEANING - Gentile means to be kind, tender, as opposed to harsh or violent.
   B. The MUSINGS
      1. This characteristic does not mean that people will run over you or take advantage of you.
      2. Titus 3:1,2
      3. James 3:17
      4. View the gentleness of Jesus Christ.

III. GOERS!
   A. The PEOPLE who received the great commission.
      1. Matthew 28:18-20
      2. The definition of a church
      3. The authority was given to the church in order that they might be authorized to carry out the great commission.
   B. The PARTICIPATION Luke 14:23

IV. GRATEFUL!
   A. The MEANING - the term grateful means to be thankful, appreciative, and to express gratitude.
   B. The MUSINGS
      1. This is an attitude that needs to be DEVELOPED.
      2. This is an expression that requires DISCIPLINE.
      3. Colossians 3:15
      4. Ephesians 5:20

V. GUARDIANS!
   A. Guardians of the truth - I Timothy 3:15.
   B. Guardians of the weaker brother - Gal. 6:1,2.

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THE MARVELOUS CHRIST

Text: Isaiah 53:1-12

Introduction: The entire Bible relates to us the great story of the Birth of Christ, Burden of Christ, Blood of Christ, the Bride of Christ, and the Blessings of Christ. Let’s look and listen as Isaiah relates to us the story of the marvelous Christ.

I. HIS SUPERNATURAL BIRTH - Isaiah 53:2.
   A. His birth was promised - Isaiah 7:14.
   B. His birth was powerful (against nature).
   C. His birth was perfect.

II. HIS SURRENDERED LIFE - Isaiah 53:2.
   A. His life was one of:
      1. Purity

III. HIS SORROWFUL EXPERIENCES - Isaiah 53:3,4.
   A. Despised and rejected
   B. Sorrow and grief
   C. We hid our faces from Him.

IV. HIS SUFFERING EXPERIENCES - Isaiah 53:4-6.
   A. He bore our griefs, carried our sorrows, was wounded for our transgressions, was bruised for our iniquities, was chastised for our peace, and striped for our healing.
   B. He bore our sins - V6.

V. HIS SUBMISSION AND SILENCE - Isaiah 53:7.
   A. As a lamb.
   B. As a sheep.
   C. He opened not His mouth.

VI. HIS SUCCESS - Isaiah 53:11,12.
   A. He shall see the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied - V11.
   B. He shall justify many - V11.
   C. I will divide Him a portion with the great - V12.
   D. He shall divide the spoil - V12.

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This is one of the sermons from Bro. Clark’s book, SERMONS FROM THE CORINTHIAN PULPIT. You can obtain a copy from him.

THE TRUE CHRISTIAN

Text: Romans 8:28; Acts 4:13

Intro:

A. Three kinds of people:
   1. It was suggested to me by a member that there are THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE in the world: the BELIEVER, the UNBELIEVER, and the MAKE-BELIEVER.
   2. The Believer is one who daily governs his life by faith in God through Jesus Christ.
   3. The UNBELIEVER is one who has never heard the gospel, or he has heard it and does not believe it.

D. B. Wright
4. The MAKE-BELIEVER is one who is attracted both ways. He sees that faith works for some people, so he pretends to have faith. Yet, when he is around worldly people, the power of the flesh takes over and he joins in with the crowd. Pulpit Helps.

B. Jesus exposed some who offered LIP SERVICE, but whose hearts knew nothing of Him - Matthew 15:7-9.
   1. It might be well for us to be reminded. I Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 17:9; 23:7.
   2. Paul was inspired to write, telling us that this is the way of the Devil - II Cor. 11:13,14.
   3. Let us look at some marks of the TRUE CHRISTIAN.

II. TRUE CHRISTIANS CARRY THEIR CROSS.
   A. Thomas Shepherd expresses it in the grand old hymn...
      'MUST JESUS BEAR THE CROSS ALONE,
      AND ALL THE WORLD GO FREE?
      NO, THERE'S A CROSS FOR EVERY ONE,
      AND THERE'S A CROSS FOR ME.'

     THE CONSECRATED CROSS I'LL BEAR
     TILL DEATH SHALL SET ME FREE,
     AND THEN GO HOME MY CROWN TO WEAR,
     FOR THERE'S A CROWN FOR ME.

     UPON THE CRYSTAL PAVEMENT DOWN
     AT JESUS' PIERCED FEET,
     JOYFUL, I'LL CAST MY GOLDEN CROWN
     AND HIS DEAR NAME REPEAT.

     O PRECIOUS CROSS! O GLORIOUS CROWN!
     O RESURRECTION DAY!
     YE ANGELS FROM THE STARS COME DOWN,
     AND BEAR MY SOUL AWAY.'

   B. Soldiers of the cross have left this testimony.
      1. Galatians 2:20
      2. Philippians 3:7,8
      4. One made this resolution - Gal. 6:14.

C. Jesus had somthing to say about CROSS BEARING.
   1. Matt. 16:24
   2. Matt. 10:38

III. TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE CONCERNED FOR THE WELFARE OF OTHERS.
   A. Have we truly grasped the teachings of Jesus as expressed in...
      1. Matthew 25:40
      2. Luke 10:30-34
   B. Jesus is concerned for our well being - Hebrews 4:15.
   C. Paul taught the church of God at Corinth - I Cor. 12:25.
   D. Galatians 6:2
   E. The second great Commandment - John 13:34.
      1. A New Commandment! John 13:34
      2. Love gives a testimony!
         a. I John 4:11
         b. I John 4:12
         c. John 13:35
         d. I John 4:14
   F. Love does good to others!
      1. Galatians 6:10
      2. Doing good to others proves the sincerity of love - II Cor. 8:8.

IV. TRUE CHRISTIANS CONFORM TO CHRIST.
   A. Romans 8:29
      1. To His way of THINKING - Philippians 2:8.
      2. To His walk - I John 2:6.
      3. To His PURPOSE IN LIFE.
         a. To do His Father's Will - John 6:38; John 4:34.
         c. To LIGHT THE PATH OF OTHERS - John 8:12; Matt. 5:16.
         d. To minister to others - Luke 4:18; Matthew 20:28; James 1:27.

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THREE BY-PRODUCTS OF MURMURERS

Text: Jude 16

I. THEY WALK AFTER THEIR OWN LUSTS.
   James 1:14-16
   A. Our desires for sin come from within.
   B. The wrong desires brings forth sin.
   C. Even children of God can be tempted to sin.
   D. Murmurers often try to justify their own actions.

II. THEY SPEAK WELL OF EVERYTHING BUT THAT WHICH IS GODLY. I Tim. 6:3-5
   A. They hold to a worldly standard.
   B. They don’t consent to a spiritual standard.
   C. They are destitute of any truth.
   D. There is a danger of fellowshipping with such murmurers.

III. THEY USE THEIR ACTIONS FOR ADVANTAGE. Phil. 2:21
    A. Mankind’s will for himself is rarely the same as the Lord’s will for him.
    B. They seek their own good over the good of God.
    C. The most beneficial things we can strive for are the things of God.

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PRAISE THE LORD

Text: I Peter 1:3-5

Introduction: A Biblical account of praise to the Lord is given in the book of II Chronicles. During the days of King Jehoshaphat of Judah, enemy forces came against the King and his people. Jehoshaphat knew the Moabites and Ammonites greatly outnumbered his people and because of numbers could defeat him.

King Jehoshaphat talked to God about the problem. God gave him a surprising answer: "...Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's..." II Chronicles 20:15.

The King followed God’s orders and appointed singers "to sing and to praise." As the people began to sing and praise God, the enemy forces became confused. Panic broke out in their camp. They killed and scattered one another. The people of God celebrated an undreamed victory, II Chronicles 20:18-24.

We need to praise the Lord every day. The Bible says, "Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments," Psalm 119:164. The apostle Peter has written, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." I Peter 2:9

The children of God should live with an attitude of praise. In these text verses, the inspired writer gives three reasons why the children of God should praise the Lord.

First, God offers man A Living Hope. Second, God gives His people A Lasting Heritage. Third, God provides the child of God with A Loving Honor.

God is so good to us! When we come to some understanding of who God is and what He does, we will praise Him. The text verse says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ..." The word "blessed" means to praise God. Oh, how the born again people of God need to exalt the precious name of Jesus and praise Him. The daily theme and testimony of the child of God should be one of praise to God.

I. PRAISE THE LORD FOR A LIVING HOPE.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." I Peter 1:3

The Christian life is a living hope and expectation. The hope of the child of God is Christ, the assurance of an unfalling inheritance in heaven, and the convictions of present blessings from God in this life.

The Bible declares, "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day," Proverbs 4:18. Even when pressures and pains of life are present, the child of God knows he receives the love and care of God.

If man bases life on secular humanism, atheism, or human achievement, then he has no hope. Life tumbles upon everyone whose hope is not based upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

The inspired writer wrote about a hope that would never fade or fail. He could praise the Lord because of that ever living hope.

The mercy of God is the gateway to our living hope. God’s mercy means His love, His kindness, His compassion. The mercy and love of God is seen at Calvary where the only begotten Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, shed His precious blood for the sins of the world offering salvation to all who would receive Him as Saviour. John 3:16

The new birth experience is the guarantee of a living hope. The text says we are "begotten again." When we trust Christ for salvation, we are born again.

If your hope is not in Jesus Christ, it is a wasted hope! If you want a living hope, trust Christ as Saviour.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the basis of a living hope. Jesus died, was buried, rose again and ever lives at the right hand of God. Jesus Christ is not dead, but He lives. He lives today! "...It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Romans 8:34

Praise God for the living hope we have in Christ Jesus. There is nothing dull, dreadful, deceptive, or dead about the hope in Christ. Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."
II. PRAISE THE LORD FOR A LASTING HERITAGE.

"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." I Peter 1:4

The Lord's people ought to become excited about the heritage that God has for us. Our heritage is incorruptible. The "incorruptible" inheritance means no grave will ever be dug in Heaven.

Our heritage is undefiled. Undefiled means that which is not strained. The 'New Jerusalem' will not be stained by sin! Our heritage is eternally and perfectly pure.

Our heritage does not fade away. It will not diminish in quality or worth. Flowers fade and fall. Blossoms wilt and wither. There is coming a great and glorious day when all the 'fading' will be removed.

Our heritage is reserved. No one can take away from the child of God what our blessed Saviour has prepared for us. John 14:1-6; Matthew 6:19-21

III. PRAISE THE LORD FOR A LOVING HONOR.

If we will honor the Lord with our faith and trust, He will honor us with everlasting salvation - eternal security. What a limitless honor! 1 Peter 1:5 "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

We are secure because of the power of God! God is watching over us and is keeping us! Don't you want to praise Him for this?

The child of God is secure in Christ, Romans 8:34-39; John 10:27-28. God has the power to save and to secure us.

CONCLUSION: Praise God for The Living Hope, The Lasting Heritage, and The Loving Honor which His children have in Christ. Come to Jesus today and be saved.

Randy Cloud, 3531 Muirfield Cr., Fort Smith, AR 72903

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Shepherds keeping watch over their flock by night,
The glory of the Lord shone round so bright;
Angels came upon them proclaiming the birth
Of Jesus, the greatest story on earth.

With haste they followed the star,
Sore afraid, but joy flooded their hearts
Indeed the spoken Savior of long ago came;
Jesus, the Lord and Savior, what a name!

A multitude of the heavenly hosts praise
God, and saying,
Glory to God in the Highest,
Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace,
How majestic!

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ESSENTIALS OF THE MINISTRY
Text: Romans 15:17-20

I. INSPIRATION Ephesians 6:5-8
   A. Our instruction is from above.
   B. Our motivation is from above.
   C. Our reward is from above.

II. CO-OPERATION
   A. With God Acts 21:19
   B. With the church of our membership Eph. 4:11-13
   C. With each other II Tim. 2:16-18

III. PERSPIRATION Matt. 9:36-38
   A. There is plenty of work to be done.
   B. God has plenty of people to choose from to
do the work including you;
   C. Those who don't work won't receive the
blessings.

IV. SATISFACTION Isa. 49:11
   A. It is God who has called us.
B. It is God who enables us.
C. It is God who should be glorified by our service.
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THE DOCTRINE OF SPIRITUALLY
Text: Ephesians 5:18

Introduction:
A. This is a teaching that has been greatly misunderstood.
   1. For instance: What does it mean? What makes one spiritual? Who is spiritual?
      a. We will answer these questions from the Word.
      b. Human experiences and ideas are unacceptable.
   2. Two gross errors concerning this doctrine.
      a. One error is that the Spirit’s filling is dependant upon asking or praying for it. There is a difference in receiving and being filled.
      b. The other error is that the Spirit’s filling depends upon some crisis experience.
      c. These two errors ignore the simple truth that the Spirit indwells every believer - Eph. 12:13,14; Romans 8:11.
B. Exposition of the text verse - Ephesians 5:18.
   1. The negative aspect - "Be not drunk with wine."
      a. "Drunk" to intoxicate, make drunk (Thayer).
      b. This is present middle imperative: calls for a discontinuation of an action in progress.
      c. "Excess' an abandoned life, dissolve life, (A life of debauchery.)
   2. The positive aspect..."But be filled with the Spirit."
      a. "But" contrastive
      b. "Filled" to fill. The idea of the word is control.
      c. This is present..."Continually."
   3. The application
      a. Intoxication is contrary to God’s Word. It leads to an empty, futile, debauched life. It is unbecoming to a christian.
      b. Be filled with the Spirit. A person cannot have more of the Spirit than he received at salvation. A person can and must continually allow himself to be controlled and dominated by Him.
C. Maintaining spirituality is based on three commands.
   1. Quench not the Spirit.
   2. Grieve not the Spirit.
   3. Walk in the Spirit.

I. QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT. I Thessalonians 5:19

A. The meaning of the word "quench."
   1. To suppress, to stifle (Thayer).
   2. To put out a fire (Ling.Key).
B. The usage of the word, "quench."
   1. In the Bible, the word quench is most often used in a physical sense - Matthew 12:20; Hebrews 11:34; Ephesians 6:16.
   2. In every instance the word has the idea of to put out, to stifle, suppress.
C. The meaning of this verse.
   1. No one can literally extinguish the Holy Spirit in the absolute sense.
      a. His abiding presence is assured for all believers.
      b. His person is indestructible.
   2. It does mean and have the sense of resisting or opposing His will.
      a. Quenching the Spirit may be defined as being unyielded to Him. Saying No!
      b. The issue is the question of willingness to do His will.

II. GRIEVE NOT THE SPIRIT - Ephesians 4:30.
A. The meaning of the word, "grieve."
   1. To make sorrowful, to affect with sadness, cause grief. (Thayer)
   2. Present imperative with a negative: forbids a continual and habitual action.
B. The usage of the word, "grieve."
   1. The young ruler was grieved. Mark 10:22
   2. Peter was grieved. John 21:17
   3. In each case the idea is sorrow, sadness, etc.
C. The meaning of this verse.
   1. The Holy Spirit indwells the believer.
      a. Acts of sins by the believer grieves the Spirit.
      b. Not the old sin nature, but acts of sin.
   2. The sins Paul had in mind at this time. V29
   3. The remedy...Confession. I John 1:9

III. WALK IN (BY) THE SPIRIT. Galatians 5:16
A. The meaning of the word, "walk."
   1. To walk about, to conduct one’s life.
   2. This is to be continual action.
B. The meaning of this verse.
   1. Believers are commanded to walk by the person and power of the Holy Spirit.
      a. If we do this we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.
      b. The only logical conclusion for the believer is to walk by the Spirit. V25
   2. Failure to walk by the Spirit will result in immediate spiritual failure.
   3. We must depend upon the aid of the Spirit.

Conclusion:
A. Knowledge of the Word of God.
B. Led by the Spirit. Romans 8:14
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