

SEVEN STEPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORK OF GOD

Doubtless Bay Baptist Church 26/9/04 EKB

These thoughts are based around *2Chron 7:14*.

The seven essentials of a sustainable work of God are:

1. **TRUTH**

TRUTH is essential for any work of God. **Without TRUTH we are deceived and far from God.** Seek TRUTH and pursue it. Refuse all untruth and lies.

2. **HUMILITY**

HUMILITY is taking the place of a servant to God and to other people. Jesus modelled this in His life and ministry. *Mat 20:28, Lk 22:27, Phil 2:5-9, Jn 13:4-17*. Servanthood to God is surrender to God to do His will. Servanthood is serving other people in love, out of a secure identity, by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Secure identity is knowing our calling, gifting and ministry in Christ. This includes significance, selfworth, and security. See: www.pastornotes.com Out of His secure identity Jesus humbled himself to serve others by the leading of the Holy Spirit. *Phil 2:5-9, Jn 13:3-17*. Jesus' secure identity is seen in *Phil 2:6, Jn 13:3,13,14*. Our first act of serving others is to forgive, release from condemning judgment, hand the problem over to God to resolve, and pray much for the person hurting us. *Mk 11:25,26, Mat 7:1,2, Rom 2:1,2, 1Pet 5:7, Ps 55:22, Lk 6:27,28,35-37. Pray Ac 26:18 or Col 1:9-11.*

3. **PRAYER**

PRAYER is fellowship and communication with God, through Jesus Christ, by the enabling of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Therefore PRAYER must be the focus of our lives and our number one commitment. This is our **"first love"**, *Rev 2:4*.

Everything we do in God's service must come out of our PRAYER relationship with God. God must initiate, enable, sustain and guide what we do for Him. He will tell us when to bring it to a conclusion.

4. **SEEKING GOD'S FACE**

We SEEK GOD'S FACE in important situations to hear His voice, and receive His favourable intervention on our behalf. *Ezra 8:21-23, 1Chron 28:9, Ps 119:10, Ps 27:8, Jer 29:13,14, Amos 5:4,6*.

In my life there have been times of critical need, when I have sought the Lord with all my heart, and He has come to me and revealed His manifest presence. The revelation of His presence has brought His deliverance and salvation. ***Joel 1:14, 2:12-17, is God's now Word for New Zealand!! Seek Him.***

5. **TURNING FROM OUR WICKED WAYS**

Heb 10:14 says "For by one offering He has perfected for ever those who are being sanctified". **Our position of being declared totally righteous in God's sight by faith in Jesus Christ, is dependent upon making every effort to get rid of sinful habits and bondages.** Our position in Christ is dependent upon our condition.

God declares us to be totally righteous in His sight as we are waging war on sin and refusing to allow it to remain in us. Justification is total and instantaneous, but sanctification is a process of getting rid of sin. Both are by faith in the promises of God. Acting in sin is acting as the enemy of God. We are not to allow sin to continue to rule our lives. *Rom 6:1-14, Rom 8:1-15, Col 3:1-17, Eph 4:20-32.*

6. **ACTIVE CONCERN TO WIN THE LOST**

God loves sinners and sent His Only Son to die for us. **He has commanded us, who are now saved, to reach the lost with the Gospel of His Good News.** Every believer is required of God to be an active witness of Christ **and to do everything possible** to win the unsaved to Him. *Ac 1:8, Mat 28:18-20, Mk 16:15, 2Cor 5:18. His last commandment is my first priority.* Exhort every believer to be an active witness to the unsaved at all times. Carry tracts and give them out everywhere you go. **Be bold.**

7. **CARING FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY**

God loves the **POOR AND NEEDY and has commanded us to care for them.** *Mat 25:35,36, Is 58:6-12, Gal 6:10, Prov 21:13, 19:17, 17:5.* Exhort every believer to actively care for the poor and needy.