

Investing in Your Faith

Notes

Phillip E. Moore - June 26, 2022

Life Isn't Always Easy...

We were never promised a Perfect/Easy Life

- **John 16:33**

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I (Jesus) have overcome the world."

We will have Challenges in Life

We will go through Valleys

LIFE WILL – at times be challenging & have its valleys

- Joy Clayton: "How we answer life is critical."

Ever Had ONE OF THOSE Days?

Title of My Talk: **Investing in Your Faith**

- **MAIN POINT**: The KEY to Successfully Navigating & Living the Victorious Christian Life God desires for us...
 - Stay Spiritually Strong by INVESTING IN OUR FAITH.
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Biblical Illustration - Paul

➤ Peaks in Life:

- Road to Damascus
- Dedicated his life to spreading The Gospel
 - Missionary Tours that shaped the early Church
 - Wrote almost half of the New Testament

➤ Valleys:

- flogged/beaten 5x, falsely accused, ridiculed, shipwrecked 3x
- 2 years in a Roman prison

Ephesians - a letter Paul wrote to the churches in that region encouraging them in their faith.

- In the 3RD Chapter is a prayer he prayed for the Early Church and it applies to us today...

Ephesians 3:14-21

I bow my knees in reverence before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...

May He grant you out of the riches of His glory, to be strengthened and spiritually energized with power through His Spirit in your inner self, indwelling your innermost being and personality,

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through your faith.

And may you, having been deeply rooted and securely grounded in love, be fully capable of comprehending with all the saints (God's people) the width and length and height and depth of His love [fully experiencing that amazing, endless love];

And that you may come to know [practically, through personal experience] the love of Christ which far surpasses mere knowledge without experience,

That you may be filled up throughout your being to all the fullness of God.

So that you may have the richest experience of God's presence in your lives, completely filled and flooded with God Himself.

Now to Him who is able to carry out His purpose and do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen.

This Prayer is POWERFUL

This Prayer is POSSIBLE

This Prayer becomes Our EXAMPLE & Our GOAL

Here's WHAT I LEARNED THIS PAST YEAR:

I. Spiritual Strength Is Vital

- We Are a **SPIRIT**
 - We Have a **SOUL**
 - We Live in a physical **BODY**
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3 Things That Will Help Us Stay Strong in our Spirit - Keith Moore

1. Watch What We Take In

2. We Must Exercise

Proverbs 18:21

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it and indulge it will eat its fruit and bear the consequences of their words.”

○ Pastor Alan

“Find yourself in God’s Word and say what it says about you.”

Philippians 4:13

“I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me...].”

3. Watch for “The Drains” in Our Lives

For me, Becoming Stronger In My Spirit involved:

1. Getting Key Verses in Me
2. Holding on to the Lord & Standing on His Word
3. Embracing Worship Music & letting it Feed my Spirit

Life is never a Smooth Upward Trajectory free of Change, Challenge, or Disruption.

- It has Peaks & Valleys along the way.

II. Investing in Our Faith Is Critical

Regularly / faithfully / consistently Investing in Our Faith.

It reminds me a lot of investing... Dollar Cost Averaging

- Investing a Fixed Amount of Money
- In the same fund or stock at regular intervals
- Over an extended period of time

Keys to this Type of Investing:

1. Start
 2. Stay Committed
 3. Take A Long-Haul Approach
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APPLICATION

1. Start

Embrace the importance of a Strong Spirit & start Intentionally Investing in your Spiritual Health

INVEST BY:

- Reading your Bible
- Prayer
- Coming to church
- Getting plugged into a Group & a Serving Team

"The best time to plant a tree
is 25 years ago... The next best time is Today."

2. Stay Committed

Don't get thrown off by the Ups & Downs of life

- Keep Sowing Into & Feeding your Spirit!

3. Take A Long-Haul Approach

"A Man REAPS What He SOWS"...

- Sowing & Reaping is God's idea
 - It is how His Economy works

Fanny Crosby

*"O what a happy soul am I,
Although I cannot see,
I am resolved that in this world,
Contented I will be."*

"Blessed Assurance"

*Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.*

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*