

## FOUR ESSENTIALS IN THE LORD'S WORK

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. In every work that we undertake there are some essential underlying characteristics one must possess in order to perform the task successfully.
- B. The Lord's work is the most important work of all and there are some essential characteristics which we must possess if we are to do His work successfully.
- C. For this lesson we want to notice four of these essentials of the Lord's work,

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. A POWERFUL FAITH

- A. If one believes nothing, they will do nothing. If we don't believe we can do something, we are not going to try.
  - 1. The ten spies disbelieved and accomplished nothing
  - 2. Two spies believed and accomplished great things
  - 3. Great faith of centurion Matt 8:5-13
  - 4. Faith of the four who took up the roof Mk 2:1-5
- B. In having a powerful faith, one must believe the right thing
  - 1. Many believe "it makes no difference what a man believes just so his heart is right"
  - 2. Active, saving faith come by hearing God's word Rom 10:17
  - 3. A way that seems right but end is death Prov 14:12
- C. Our faith is shown by what we do Jas 2:18
  - 1. Shown on first day of week when we worship is spirit and in Truth Jhn 4:24
  - 2. Shown during the week by the way we:
    - a. Offer no excuses, but start and continue to work
    - b. Treat our families; neighbors: the way we live
    - c. Try to teach others the Gospel
- D. Faith that receives the blessings of God is the faith that will win conquests for Him

#### II. A PREVAILING PRAYER

- A. Prayer is a very powerful weapon
  - 1. Avails much Jas 5:16
  - 2. Note Elijah's example Jas 5:17, 18
  - 3. Pray for salvation of world Lk 10:2
  - 4. Brethren pray for us 1Thess 5:25
- B. Pray without ceasing 1Thess 5:17
- C. Pray not to get something from the Lord, but to live in communion with Him

### III. A PERSONAL LOVE

- A. Duty performed, backed up by love, is a blessing.
  - 1. Because Christ performed His duty with love, He was exalted. Acts 2:36; Heb 5:8,9; 2Cor 5:14
  - 2. when we perform our duty out of love, we will be exalted 1Cor 13:1-3
- B. A commanded love 1Jhn 3:23; 4:20,21
  - 1. Greatest command Matt 22:37-40
  - 2. Is not pretentious 1Pet 1:22
  - 3. It shows who we are 1Jhn 5:2

### IV. A PERSISTENT EFFORT

- A. Persistency of effort is the secret of success. Robert Bruce had fought the English six times and had been defeated. In hiding he watched a spider try six times to swing himself from one rafter to another. Six times he tried and failed, The seventh time the spider succeeded. Robert Bruce took inspiration, fought the English again, and was victorious.
- B. Persistency of effort can accomplish much Jhn 1:40-45
  - 1. Christ found Andrew who found Peter
  - 2. Christ found Philip who found Nathanael.
  - 3. We find people (if we are persistent) who in turn will find others.
- C. The salesman knows the law of averages will sell their product, if he sees enough people.
- D. Many times, we give up too soon, we need "importunity" (shameless persistence) Lk 11:8

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Our bodies must be a living sacrifice if we are to serve God effectively Rom 12:1,2
- B. This must be a steadfast service 1Cor 15: 58, which as Paul said must press toward the mark Phil 3:14
- C. So, by having a very powerful faith in God, talking to Him in prayer, having a deep love for God and man and will result in persistent effort on our part and as a result the Lord's work will be accomplished