

“STILL MORE AND MORE”

INTRODUCTION:

1. Have you ever noticed that most preachers are never satisfied? They are always encouraging others...
 - A. To be more spiritually minded, more holy, and pure.
 - B. To be more loving, caring, and hospitable.
 - C. To be more dedicated, more giving, more faithful, more studious, more prayerful, etc.
2. There is good reason for preachers to be like that, seeing that’s the way the Lord is, the way the Lord’s apostles were, and the way preachers in the early church were.
3. When they wrote to Christians and congregations, they acknowledged their faith, love, and devotion, commended and praised them for it, and *then* encouraged them to do “still more and more”.
4. That is what I want to talk about today—doing “still more and more” in God’s service.
 - A. I want to do this by looking at some of the examples of this encouragement in scripture.
 - B. Hopefully by doing so we will examine our lives to see if we can do more and more for God, His people, and His cause among the lost of this world!

BODY:

I. Paul’s letter to the church at Thessalonica:

- A. Paul commended the brethren at Thessalonica because their faith and love were growing (2 Thess. 1:3 – “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other”).
 1. That sounds pretty good and its was not said without reason.
 2. At that time the church at Thessalonica was a hard-working church.
 - a. 1 Thess. 1:2-4 – “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, 4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.”
 - b. 1 Thess. 1:8 – “For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.”
- B. Yet, Paul was not satisfied with the church at Thessalonica, and didn’t want them to be satisfied.
 1. He wanted them to have a healthy spiritual discontent...to do “still more and more.”
 2. He wanted them to love one another more (1 Thess. 4:9-10 – “But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you **increase more and more**”).
 3. He wanted to see more holiness (1 Thess. 4:1-5 – “Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should **abound more and more**, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ² for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God”)
 4. So, despite their growth and accomplishments, they were exhorted by the HS to do/be more!

II. Paul’s letter to the church at Ephesus:

- A. Paul had heard of the faith and love of the brethren in Ephesus and was truly thankful for them (Eph. 1:15-16 – “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers”).
- B. Yet, Paul was not satisfied with the church at Ephesus and he did not want them to be satisfied.
 1. After mentioning his thanks for the brethren above, Paul speaks of His requests to God that they grow spiritually (1:16-19 – “...making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His

inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe”).

2. Paul desired that they grow in every aspect of their Christians life (4:14-15 – “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, **may grow up in all things** into Him who is the head—Christ”).
3. And finally, Paul urged them to “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (6:11), and to “be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (6:13).
 - a. Despite the strides this congregation had made, more was always needed.
 - b. For, we never reach a state of acceptable faith, love, or knowledge of God’s word. Still more and more is always God’s desire for us and should be our goal as His people.

C. Paul’s letter to the church at Philippi:

1. When Paul wrote to the church at Philippi that church was already an outstanding church.
 - a. Paul’s prayers for these brethren was always one of joy and confidence (Phil. 1:3-4, 6 – “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, . . . ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ”).
 - b. This confidence wasn’t misplaced, seeing they had always obeyed, whether in Paul’s presence or absence (2:12).
 - c. These brethren were special to Paul (4:1 – “Therefore, my **beloved and longed-for** brethren, **my joy and crown**, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.”).
2. And yet Paul was not satisfied with the church at Philippi and wanted them to do “still more and more” (Phil. 1:9-11 – “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”).

D. Peter’s letters to Christians everywhere:

1. Peter encouraged spiritual growth in knowledge (1 Pet. 2:2 – “like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation”).
2. He commanded growth in the virtues of Christ (2 Pet 1:5-7 – “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.”).
3. For, growth in these virtues was needed for spiritual health and assurance of salvation (1:8-11 – “For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”).

III. Application:

A. Doing “still more and more” applies to every aspect of the Christian’s life.

1. We can’t fall into the pit of being content with things we shouldn’t, while being discontented with things we should be content (1 Tim. 6:6-8, 11 – “Now **godliness** with **contentment** is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. . . . ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”).

2. We have to continually bear fruit (John 15:1-2 – “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”).
3. So, I would say to every Christian here, whether new or old in the faith, in order to be successful as a Christian and receive the prize, there are some things you need to commit to.

B. Attend all the services of the church:

1. Most here are committed to doing just that. And I commend you for that.
 - a. But, some people who profess Christ never attend church services, are not regular in their attendance, or do not attend mid-week services, Bible classes, etc.
 - b. If you want to be successful as a Christian, I want you to do “still more and more” in your commitment to attend all the assemblies of the church and the Bible classes!
 - c. For, brethren, these are good things for every Christian to participate in.
 - i. As Paul said in Gal. 4:18, “...it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.”
 - ii. And, as the Psalmist said in Psa. 92:1 – “It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.”
2. Assembling to worship is what the Lord wants because it is good for you to do so.

C. Make Christians your best friends and grow in your relationship and hospitality toward them.

1. I encourage this because it is wise (Prov 12:26 – “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.”; 1 Cor. 15:33 – “Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”).
2. Our attitude should be that anyone who is a friend of Jesus is a friend of mine.
3. And, Jesus said, “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you” (John 15:14).

D. Listen to God every day:

1. Reading the word will cause you to grow and assure your entrance into heaven (Acts 20:32 – “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”).
2. It will save your soul (Jas. 1:21 – “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”).
3. It will help you avoid committing sin (Psa. 119:11 – “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!”).

E. Speak to God every day to gain peace and protection from Him (Phil. 4:6-7 – “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”).

F. Speak to others about God every day:

1. Why, because we are a people chosen by God to proclaim Him (1 Pet. 2:9 – “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”).
2. And, as we have been blessed, we are to bless others (2 Cor. 1:3-4 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”).

CONCLUSION:

1. So, I want to encourage you to grow “still more and more” in Christ in your faith, love, knowledge, holiness, and in dedication to being faithful to God and His will for your life!
2. You must do this, or you will die spiritually and eternally, losing your life, your soul, and all that matters!
3. Will you determine to grow still more and more,” seeking to please the Lord in doing your best?
4. That all begins with committing yourself to Christ as your Lord and Savior in F-R-C-B-LF.
5. Will you come today?