

TOOLS OF A GRACE BELIEVER

USEFUL TOOLS FOR EVERYDAY WORK

"For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ."

– Col 2:5

1. Our everyday work:

- a. We are told to be approved workman – 2 Tim 2:15 – But what is our work?
- b. We are ambassadors – 2 Cor 5:20 - but what are we representing?
- c. It is not about building buildings, more numbers, devotionals, books, or charts
- d. 1 Tim 2:4 is God's will, but it is not something we can do all at once!
- e. Edification - strengthening your inner man: encouragement, understanding, hope
- f. Missing are religious icons, rituals, church programs, choirs, money, or missions

2. Bible

- a. Function: To produce understanding – (it is a sin not to have it - Rom 1:31)
- b. Everything a saint does should be with understanding – 1 Cor 14:15,19
- c. Give attendance to reading and doctrine - 1 Tim 1:13
- d. Study to be an approved workman - 2 Tim 2:15
- e. Understand God's will – Eph 5:17, Col 1:9
- f. An assurance of understanding – Col 2:2

3. Prayer

- a. Function: To activate the doctrine
- b. Seeds need to be germinated, Eggs need to be broken, cars need to accelerate
- c. Preserves our hearts and minds through Christ – Phil 4:6-7
- d. Strengthens the inner man - Eph 3:14-15
- e. It moves doctrine past understanding into experiencing – Eph 3:19
- f. It engenders hope – Rom 5:3-4
- g. It promotes peace – Phil 4:7, 1 Tim 2:1,8
- h. Helps us rejoice – Phil 4:4; 2 Tim 1:3-5

4. Praise / Rejoice

- a. Function: To promote peace in doing God's will
- b. Praise - It is a thoughtful expression of gratitude, merit, or honor
- c. Think on these things → Phil 4:8-9
- d. Praise as a result of understanding - Phil 1:9-11
- e. Joy – The delight of the mind; an emotion of excited by possession of some good
- f. Rejoice in the Lord alway - Phil 4:4, 1 Thess 5:16
- g. Rejoice not in iniquity – 1 Cor 13:6
- h. We can rejoice in the hope of glory – Romans 5:2

5. Fellowship

- a. Function: To fill up what is lacking
- b. This is the partnering with other believers through the mystery fellowship - Eph 3:9
- c. That I might perfect that which is lacking - 1 Thess 3:10
- d. That we would increase unto more edifying - Eph 4:15-16