

DEVOTIONAL #5

TITLE: BACK TO THE BASICS

In the very familiar passage of scripture surrounding the story of David and Goliath, the Bible states something very noteworthy in 1 Samuel 17:20.

Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. 1 Samuel 17:20 NIV

I love the fact that it says “early in the morning.” You see, this was a routine for David. He would arise early each morning, care for the flock that he was in charge of and go about his routine duties. And in being the youngest son, his routine duties often included taking care of his older brothers and making sure they had what they needed as they went about their own business each day.

But yet on this particular day, David quickly found out that something so routine and ordinary was about to give way to something truly extraordinary... an event that would completely change his life forever!

Isn't it interesting that a young man like David, who undoubtedly had dreams and aspirations of his own, probably never thought that something so amazing would come about from something so routine and simple like taking food to his older brothers? Something BIG came about in the midst of something so BASIC!

It made me think of how often we pray asking God to do something BIG in our lives, when perhaps God is just looking for us to be faithful and consistent in the BASICS. Often times the miraculous comes about when we're faithful to the simple things day in and day out. Think about it... I've seen it happen over and over again... miraculous healing coming from simple, consistent prayers; miraculous provision coming to someone who faithfully, simply tithes and gives unto the Lord; the Lord sending blessing to someone's life who consistently, simply serves in their local church and sacrifices their own time and energy to see other's be blessed. And on and on it goes; the BIG can so often be found in the BASIC!

Never underestimate the power of the BASIC things in your spiritual walk! It's the basic things that provide a solid, strong foundation in our relationship with Jesus. Basic things like daily prayer, consistently reading the Bible, private worship, church participation, giving, serving, and helping others.

I encourage you today to ask yourself this honest question... Am I being consistent and faithful in the BASIC things of my spiritual life? Or have I gotten a little lazy in some of those simple, spiritual practices?

My prayer for all of us as we continue this 21-day fast together is that we would strengthen the basics once again in our spiritual walk with the Lord. And as we do that, God will, in turn, take care of the BIG things that we pray to see happen in our lives and in the lives of those we care about. We can't control the BIG... but we can certainly ensure that we cover the BASICS!

It's never too late. Start those basic spiritual disciplines today! And soon enough they'll become the best habits you've ever formed, and you'll be thankful you did!

Blessings,
Pastor Clayton Baird

Pray

Dear Jesus, I thank you that you are a God who desires to send BIG things into my life... Big blessings, big provision, big miracles, big opportunities! And God I desire to be someone who is faithful to the basics. Give me the diligence and persistence to make simple spiritual practices a part of my every day life this coming year. Help me never to take for granted the opportunity I have to come into your presence daily and receive from you and your word. May you continue to do the BIG this coming year as I become even more faithful to the BASIC! In Jesus name, Amen!