

August 2006—Pursing the Basics

The messages from Brother Doug Whitley at this year's Family Conference were a joy to my heart. Who would have thought that in 2006, our Mission family would be hearing the preaching of D.L. Moody, Uncle Bud Robinson, George Mueller, James the brother of Jesus, John and others? What a blessing. I don't know about you, but I always look for basic stuff; the fundamentals, if you will. I suggest that a common denominator in all of the examples of these great men (and others), is that they were just men; yet, yielded to God. So, as I serve the Precious Savior, I was personally encouraged and challenged to pursue the "basic stuff" of this Christian life.

In my desire to further convey some of the essentials; and in response to many who asked for the outline from Thursday morning, let me share it. If you preachers "recycle" it; go to work and make it your own. The scripture references will make for good devotional studies. If you want the Power Point, Charlene Gartin will gladly get it to you.

From Phil 4:4-9, as CBM Missionaries, we should:

I. **FIND OUR SOURCE OF JOY IN THE LORD** (vs 4) "*Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice*" While many things can legitimately contribute to our joy, the Lord should always be the source. (Ps 118:24; Ps 16:11; John 1:4; Hab 3:17-19; John 15:11) This is a powerful antidote to discouragement.

II. **PRACTICE THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD** (vs 5) "*. . . The Lord is at hand.*" The issue is relationship; are you getting to know Him better? (John 14:16) This should affect our spirit of expectancy, zeal, burden for the lost and attitude.

III. **REFUSE TO WORRY** (vs 6) "*Be careful for nothing . . .*" (Dan 3:16) Careful = anxious, strangled, torn apart. Worry is worthless, wasteful and wicked. (Ps 37:25)

IV. **BRING EVERY PROBLEM TO GOD IN PRAYER** (vs 6) "*. . . but in every thing by prayer . . . let your requests be made known unto God*" (Jer 32:17 Jer 32:26-27 Luke 1:37)

V. **CULTIVATE A THANKFUL SPIRIT** (vs 6) "*. . . supplication with thanksgiving . . .*" Thanking God in all things is the highest form of faith. (1 Thess 5:18; Ps 92:1; Heb 13:15-16)

VI. **APPROPRIATE GOD'S PEACE** (vs 7) "*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*" **Keep**, means that God manifests His peace in our lives by building a fortress around our hearts and minds. (Col 2:10 2 Pet 1:3)

VII. **PRACTICE POSITIVE (BIBLICAL) THINKING** (vs 8) "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and*

if there be any praise, think on these things.” It is a choice to get control of your mind and focus on Him. (Isaiah 26:3; Ps 46.10; Prov 23:7; Prov 4:23)

VIII. **GET BUSY DOING WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO** (vs 9) *“Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”* Evaluate priorities. Make sure your family comes before the ministry. And remember; Jesus did not accomplish everything that others thought he should. Neither will you. But He did accomplish everything his father wanted him to do; so can you! (John 17:4; John 8:29; John 9:4)

Remember too, that your people will follow your example (Hos. 4:9)

Bill