

"BACK TO THE BASICS!"

INTRODUCTION

1. A disturbing trend seen too often in many congregations is the apparent apathy of many Christians

-- God Certainly Desires More for His Children! - cf. Ro 15:13

2. I suspect the problem is one akin to an athlete or a sport team which is "in a slump"

3. The same is true with Christians, when we find ourselves "in a slump"...

We need to work on the fundamentals also ¹- cf. Re 2:4-5

I. ENERGIZE YOUR "FAITH"

A. DEFINING "FAITH"...

1. A Scriptural definition of faith is found in Heb. 11:1

B. IMPORTANCE OF "FAITH"...

1. Faith in God is essential to pleasing Him - Heb 11:6
2. Faith in Jesus is essential to finding forgiveness and eternal life - Jn 8:24;
3. Without faith, the only alternative is doubt, accompanied with fear as Peter displayed in
- Mt 14:30-31

C. ENERGIZING YOUR "FAITH"...

1. The Word of God is designed to produce faith - cf. Ro 10:17; Jn 20:30-31
2. Through diligent reading of the Bible, we can "energize" our faith!

OVER

¹ Source material Mark Copeland @ Executable Outlines

II. FORTIFY YOUR "HOPE"

A. DEFINING "HOPE"...

1. Hope has to do with the unseen and the future, Rom 8:24, 25.

B. IMPORTANCE OF "HOPE"...

1. Hope is necessary to persevere - Ro 8:25; 1Th 1:3.
2. Hope is necessary for our motivation to become pure - 1Jn 3:2-3
3. Hope is necessary to increase opportunities to evangelize - 1Pe 3:15
4. Without hope, we not only lose our souls, we won't be any good for saving others!

C. FORTIFYING YOUR "HOPE"...

1. The Word of God was written to produce hope - Ro 15:4
2. Peter encourages us to "rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" - 1Pe 1:13

[When an athlete gets discouraged, he or she is often told to "keep your eye on the prize!" So, the Christian must also do the same, and it is with the aid of God's Word that we can keep our focus where it ought to be.

INVITATION