

PRACTICING CHRISTIANITY

To do something well, you need to do it all the time. No one meets with great success at doing something unless he has paid the price of practice and preparation. In fact, the amount of proficiency one has at a certain task is directly proportional to the amount of time spent in doing it. Another way to put it is, if we sow sparingly we shall reap sparingly, but if we sow bountifully we shall also reap bountifully (2Cor. 9:6).

Someone has accurately said that "if you don't use it, you lose it" in reference to playing certain kinds of athletic games. When one plays basketball for example, he must continually practice at shooting, dribbling, passing, and playing defense. Practice will also consist of being able to run certain plays and meshing one's skills with the skills of others to make a team. Teams that are well coached (have good practice sessions) will, on the average, win more games than those who have not spent time in preparing.

Someone once asked Al Hirt why he practiced on his trumpet eight hours every day. His reply was that if he only practiced seven hours he would notice the difference, if only six hours his critics would know it, and if for only four hours his audience would know it. He realized that to stay on top and be considered one of the best, he would have to continually practice.

It really doesn't make any difference as to what one is talking about; whether it be sewing, running, gardening, cooking, musical or athletic ability, or even intellectual sharpness, the activity must be done often on a regular basis if one wants to be successful at it. You get out, of something exactly what you put into it.

The same is true in Christianity. Some find it hard to live the Christian life because they have tried to limit their Christian service to Sundays and maybe Wednesdays. As they continue to limit their activity in what they do for God, staying from sin becomes that much harder. If we want, to live godly lives that are pleasing to God, we must "practice" our Christianity every day, all day long.

By spending time each day in God's word we will know what is expected of us and enjoy the comfort the Scriptures bring. Prayer each day, many times a day, keeps us in tune with God and asking for the things we really need, doing for others is also a part of discipleship. As we give, it will be given unto us. We may find some of these things hard to do, but as any athlete will tell you, it is difficult at first but with constant practice some things become easier to do and accomplish.

We think it, foolish for someone who has never played the trumpet to be able to entertain an audience with only meager preparation. And yet, sometimes we think that with only a very limited amount of faithfulness to God we can succeed in living the Christian life. This is not true either.

Building a Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA) comes with everyday commitment to Christ and His word. Then once we have "paid the price" of mature spirituality, we can begin to see how wonderful, blessed, and successful the Christian life really is.