

SINGLE ALLIANCE

The 4:8 Principle- The most necessary thing you can give God

01/7/10

I. Introduction

A. Today we are continuing the series the 4:8 Principle.

1. Philippians 4:8

B. What is the most necessary thing you give God?

C. There are several key things we need to give to God to see our lives fulfill His plan and purpose for us. However, there is one thing above all else we must give before any of those other things will make a difference. What is that one thing? You will have to wait till later to find out!

II. How to transform your mind/heart

A. We have discussed in previous lessons that what we think about become thought patterns and belief systems in our sub-conscious mind and we will live out of those automatically.

B. We have seen that the limits of our life come out of our heart- belief systems- as a man thinks so is he. **Prov. 23:7**

C. It is paramount then that we learn to renew our thought patterns and belief systems with truth.

D. Too many Christians live year after year with little change in their life, habits, and circumstances. This is not because they do not go to church, or hear sermons, or have a lack of knowledge about the Bible. The reason their lives have not changed is because they have not allowed truth to impact them at a heart level and transform them.

E. Too many Christians approach church and hearing a message from the Word like they do the rest of the things they hear and watch. Many [not purposely] treat church and sermons like watching T.V. or a movie. They passively listen to the message. They smile at what is humorous and frown at what they do not agree with. They walk away from the message and say "That was good!" or "That was bad!" or something in between. They walk out of the church and forget what they heard and do not really think about it much anymore. They think they have done their part in the Christian life- go to church and hear the sermon. That is not all of your part!

- F. **James 1:22**- Do not just be a hearer but a doer
1. Our lives will change only when we are a doer of the word.
 2. **You cannot be a doer of the Word just by being a hearer of the Word or James would not have said be not a hearer only of the Word!** Many Christians are hearing the Word, but they are not doing the Word, WHY- what is missing?
 3. You can only be a doer by being a meditator of the Word!
James 1:23-25
- G. **Mar 4:24** And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [*of thought and study*] you give [*to the truth you hear*] will be the measure [*of virtue and knowledge*] that comes back to you--and more [*besides*] will be given to you who hear.
- H. **The missing key to heart transformation is meditation on the Word!**
- I. The main word in the NT for meditate is the Greek word **melatao**- to revolve in the mind. Used of the Greeks of the meditative pondering and the practice of orators learning their lines by speaking them over and over again to themselves. To rehearse!
1. Actors are doers! But before they can act their part, they must learn their lines by repetition. They also have to see themselves being the role they are to play. They immerse themselves in the part until it becomes a part of them. This is what we must do with the script of the Word of God before it becomes a part of us! However, we will not be living out a fantasy, we will be living out God's reality!
- J. We must rehearse the truth over and over again by speaking it and seeing ourselves in our heart living out the role of a saint, child of God, healed, successful, and prosperous one. This will cause the truth to take root in our lives
- K. Mark 4- The parable of the sower
1. Each ground produced more than the one before it because it was in the ground longer and took deep root.
- L. Now what is it that we must give God above all else before our lives can fulfill His purpose and plan? **IT IS OUR TIME!**
- M. Most Christians are not given God sufficient time in His Word and in prayer/worship. If you will give God your time, He will give you all He has! It takes time in God's word to feed our faith. It takes time to worship God like we should. It takes time to pray as we should. It

takes time to cultivate a relationship! Many are trying to work principles instead of investing their time in a relationship with God!
N. What has taken up your time lately...