

# From the Family Room

**Creekwood Church of Christ  
Mobile, AL**

7 January, 2018

## **Study, Pray, Serve**



*And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Ephesians 6:17*

*Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. John 17:17*

*For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.*

*Romans 15:4*

*For the Word that God speaks is alive and active; it cuts more keenly than any two-edged sword: it strikes through to the place where soul and spirit meet, to the innermost intimacies of a man's being: it exposes the very thoughts and motives of a man's heart. Hebrews 4:12*

*Ask and it will be given to you. Search and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened for you.*

*Matthew 7:7*

*Pray at all times with every kind of spiritual prayer, keeping alert and persistent as you pray for all Christ's men and women. Ephesians 6:18*

*Don't worry over anything whatever; tell God every detail of your needs in earnest and thankful prayer, and the peace of God which transcends human understanding, will keep constant guard over your hearts and minds as they rest in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

*But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. Mark 10:43-44*

*So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. John 13:12-14*

For all of the years I taught teens the universal answer was, "Study and pray." Sometimes I would call on a student that was not listening to my question. They learned when they heard their name and did not know the question that had just been asked to answer "Study and pray." That answer could never be wrong. One of the basics of my teaching was that if a person was going to grow and mature as a disciple of Christ, they had to study God's word and pray to Him.

I still believe that is true today. If we are to become sure enough for real Christians, we must start with the heart. Real Christianity is an inside job. To be transformed and not conformed we must read God's love letter to us – the Bible. When we learn about the unlimited love God has for us, we love Him. We have hope and confidence in God's promises. When we love Him, we love others.

We must also send our love letters – our prayers – to God. When we pray to God with thanksgiving, we are reminded of the many blessings we enjoy in Christ. We are also protected by God's peace in Christ. This peace is a peace that the world cannot understand.

I have also come to believe that to develop and become the most mature disciples possible, we must serve others. When we humbly serve others, people see our good works and glorify God. We also gain benefits physically. When we serve others, the part of our brain that produces feel good chemicals like dopamine and serotonin fires up resulting in feelings of greater peace, serenity, and tranquility.

Let's turn our families into Bible studying, praying, and serving families. Let's transform our families into families that are set aside for God's purposes through the Word. Let's transform our families into families that enjoy God's peace regardless of what's going on around us. Let's transform our families into families that glorify God by our works of service.

**RICKY**