

First Baptist Church – Odessa

Pastor Byron McWilliams

Date: _____

“You Have What It Takes to Change Your Life”

“iChurch 40-Day Challenge – Pt. 3

Matthew 6:33; 2 Peter 1:3-11 & Selected

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

Challenge Number 2:

I will intentionally participate in a LifeGroup discipleship community.

“Discipleship” – the never-ending process of getting better at following Jesus so you can pursue Him as He desires!

Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples.”

Matthew 28:19a

Jude said, “But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith....” Jude 20a

Paul said, “...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”

Ephesians 4:13, 15

Discipleship is Essential Because...

I. I never have a valid excuse for not getting better at following Jesus!

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence.” Vs. 3

God Has Equipped Me...

- **With everything I need to live a godly life.**
- **With precious promises so I can stand firm always.**
"...by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desires." Vs. 4

II. God demands I put forth effort as I pursue Him!

"For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith."

Vs. 5

"Faith without works is dead." James 2:26b

III. God expects me to increase my knowledge of His Son!

"For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." Vs. 8

- **I must refuse to be blind to the blessings of the Gospel.**
"For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins." Vs. 9
- **I must diligently follow Jesus so that I never fall.**
"Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall." Vs. 10

IV. The effort I put forth to grow spiritually and follow Jesus is the greatest indicator that I truly know my Lord!

"For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Vs. 11