

# FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families

## Easy as 1-2-3

BY PASTOR TURNER

*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? MICAH 6:8 KJV*

*For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. PHILIPPIANS 2:13 NLT*

Our passage from Micah is a high-level snapshot of what the Lord requires of His people. It is worth pausing and acknowledging that these are not suggestions, or recommendations, but *requirements*. He examines His people to see if they: do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with Him. On the surface, these seem like easily attainable targets. Easy as 1-2-3! But a deeper study reveals much more.

To do justly means two things - to make righteous judgements (i.e. to make correct decisions about what is right and wrong), and to do right, or live according to those correct judgements. Right away, we are presented with two impossibilities. The Bible says in Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." In other words, our judgements are not the righteous judgements the Lord requires. Not only that, but Jeremiah 13:23 states, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." This, and numerous other Scriptures reinforce the fact that, in our humanity, we do not have the ability to do what is pleasing to God.

To love mercy refers to the mercy we receive from God, but also the mercy we extend to others. Walking with the Lord is living in close fellowship with Him, acknowledging Him, and being yoked with Him in all our ways. Again, these are simply outside of our ability to accomplish in our humanity. But thanks be to God, He has made available a means by which we can fulfill all three requirements - the Spirit of the Lord!

When we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, we receive the power of God that transforms our life. He gives us His desires, and He enables us to do what we cannot do ourselves. His Spirit works in us, and through us, and He can cause us to walk in His ways!

*And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. Ezekiel 36:27*

## Application

Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed? Trying to live the life of a Christian with the power of the Spirit is like trying to drive a car without gasoline - it's frustrating and ultimately you won't get where you want to go!

Our human efforts are reflected in Paul's frustrations in Romans 7, when he says *I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway*. Have you ever felt this way? Then it's time to be renewed in the Holy Ghost and allow Him to do the heavy lifting for you.

## Discussion

1. Which of the three requirements listed in Micah 6 has the Lord been dealing with me recently?
2. How can we reconcile God's requirement to judge righteously with Matthew 7, which says to "Judge not, that ye be not judged."
3. Why is Philippians 2:13 so critical to the life of a Christian?

## Prayer Focus

Pray that God's grace would impart the desire and ability to do what pleases Him.

Pray that we would rely on the power of the Spirit and not lean on our flesh.

Pray that we are not only filled with, but governed by the Spirit. (II Corinthians 3:8 AMPC)

Pray for a fresh wind of the Spirit to flow in our services.