

The Bubble in the Middle
(The Keys to a Balanced Christian Life)
Wednesday, September 23, 2020

- A police officer, when testing someone suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol, asked them to walk a “straight line.”
 - We all know the obvious importance of “balance” when walking the high wire at a circus.
 - When nature is out of balance we experience earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, plagues, etc.
 - When your body is out of balance you experience sickness and other ailments.
- I. God is one of ultimate, perfect balance. He desires the same of me.

A. A few thoughts from the Lord on a balance life!
(Job 31:6, Prov. 11:1, Daniel 5:27, Amos 7:7-8)

6 Let me be weighed on honest scales, That God may know my integrity.

11:1 Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight.

27 "TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;

7 Thus He showed me: Behold, the Lord stood on a wall made with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand.

8 And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said: "Behold, I am setting a plumb line In the midst of My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore.

B. A “balanced diet” is essential to good physical health.

1. Throughout Church history, principles of Kingdom living have had to be rediscovered over and over!
2. Newly discovered truth at times becomes over emphasized to the exclusion of others!
3. Faith, prosperity, the Holy Spirit, discipleship, women’s place in ministry, demons and angels.

II. Two sides of Kingdom living: Power and Character – The Gifts of the Spirit and the Fruit of the Spirit!

A. The Kingdom of God is one of “power” and not just “theological chatter”! (I Cor. 4:20)

20 For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

1. Talk is cheap
2. Power is authority in a situation

B. God’s description of the power/gifts side of the Kingdom. (I Cor. 12:8-10)

8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

C. ...And God has the say-so how they operate in His creation! (Verse 11)

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

III. Character and Fruit of the Spirit. (Rom. 14:17)

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

A. Paul explains that the Kingdom of God is not all about the externals, but the internals as well!

1. The character of God's Kingdom is found in Galatians 5:22-23.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

2. Let's be sure that we preach and live the "whole counsel of God."

B. The priestly robe can be our example! (Ex. 28:33-35)

33 "And upon its hem you shall make pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around:

34 "a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe all around.

35 "And it shall be upon Aaron when he ministers, and its sound will be heard when he goes into the holy place before the LORD and when he comes out, that he may not die.

1. Some have said that the bells represent the gifts and the pomegranates represent the fruit!
2. Bells announce significant events!
3. Ancient literature says that the pomegranates represented life!
4. One of seven fruits brought back by the spies from the Promised Land.
5. Represents marriage and regeneration and even decorated the columns of Solomon's temple!
6. Appear several times in the Song of Solomon.

C. The priest had to wear this robe as he ministered to the Lord, "lest he die." (Ex. 28:35)

35 "And it shall be upon Aaron when he ministers, and its sound will be heard when he goes into the

holy place before the LORD and when he comes out, that he may not die.

D. Interesting scripture and thought. (Heb. 3:7-11)

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice,

8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,

9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years.

10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.'

11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"

1. Israel experienced the supernatural power of God for years in the desert as God provided water, manna and quail.
2. Yet...they did not enter the Promised Land because of their fruit and character!
3. Thoughts to ponder!