

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

May 1

2022

Ingredients For Spiritual and Numerical Growth

Many of us possess a desire to grow both spiritually and numerically, and brethren, the good news is, our desire for spiritual and numerical growth can become a reality if we will just implement a few things. So, with that thought in mind let's examine some ingredients for spiritual and numerical growth. Beginning with, if we are going to grow both spiritually and numerically we must...

Possess A Sincere Love for the Lord.

Jesus said the first and great commandment is to, *"...love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind"* (Matthew 22:37-38). You see, a sincere, whole-hearted love for the Lord our God is a key ingredient if we want to grow both spiritually and numerically. For, when we demonstrate a sincere love for the Lord and His will, it will better equip us to grow both spiritually and numerically.

Possess Unity.

Another key ingredient for spiritual and numerical

growth is unity. In Psalm 133:1 we read, *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!"* Indeed, unity among brethren certainly is pleasant, and it is commanded (1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Peter 3:8). Therefore, we all need to strive to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3), for by doing so we will spiritually grow together in the one faith. Also, when others from the outside see us united together, they can be encouraged by the fact that we truly love, care about, and get along with one another, which, by the way, can positively influence them to want to become apart of our spiritual family.

Work Together.

Paul, in writing to first century Christians about the diversity of spiritual gifts stated, *"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ"* (1 Corinthians 12:12). Paul also writes, *"from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love"* (Ephesians 4:16). You see, although spiritual gifts have ceased (1 Corinthians 13:8-10), we are still all a part of the one body. Therefore, let us continue to be joined and knitted together by doing our share, for as Paul said, by doing so causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Possess A Desire To Do The Lord's Work.

A willingness and desire to do the Lord's work is also another key ingredient which enables both spiritual and numerical growth. For instance in order to grow spiritually we must be diligent to present ourselves approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15), and we must be willing to grow in the

grace and knowledge of the Lord (2 Peter 3:18). Also, as the Lord's servants we must always be abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58), for by doing so, we like the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 9:19) may win the more. You see, the spiritual fields are ready for harvest (John 4:35), but unfortunately the laborers are few (Matthew 9:37). Therefore may we all be wise and strive to win souls for the Lord (Proverbs 11:30) for by doing this we will please God, and He will give the increase (1 Corinthians 3:7).

Pray For Spiritual and Numerical Growth.

Last, but certainly not least, another key ingredient for growth is prayer. In (James 1:5-6) James declared if one lacks wisdom let him ask for it from God, but he also said one must ask in faith with no doubting. James would later go on to pen that, "...*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much*" (James 5:16). Brethren, there is power in prayer, and we must make our request known to God (Philippians 4:6), for God does hear our prayers and if they are in accordance with His will, He will answer them (1 John 5:14-15). Therefore may we all pray for spiritual and numerical growth without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and just as Jesus instructed His disciples, let us likewise "...*pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest*" (Matthew 9:38).

Once more brethren, both spiritual and numerical growth is realistic, and when we put all of these ingredients together, we will be better equipped to be on our way to making growth a reality here at Belleville!

✍️ *Brad Phillips*

Nails In The Fence

There once was a little girl who had a bad temper. Her mother gave her a bag of nails and told her that every time she lost her temper, she must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the girl had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as she learned to control her anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. She discovered it was easier to hold her temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the girl didn't lose her temper at all. She told her mother about it and the mother suggested that the girl now pull out one nail each day that she was able to hold her temper. The day passed and the young girl was finally able to tell her mother that all the nails were gone. The mother took her daughter by the hand and led her to the fence.

She said, "You have done well, my daughter, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one." You can put a knife in a person and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.

Please forgive me if I have ever left a hole in your fence.

Author Unknown

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

Brad Phillips..... (765) 720-2816