

# 7 Things That Will Help You Grow Spiritually

By Grover Stevens

**1 - LIVE and WORK** to reach others each day as if you knew the world were going to come to an end next Sunday night. Think of that feeling of urgency and priority! (**2 Peter 3:1-12**).

**2 - BE AS ENTHUSIASTIC** about the church and its services as you would be if there were an overflowing crowd each time. Think of the interest, anticipation, and excitement of an overflow crowd!

**3 - COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.** Make a list of the things you are thankful to God for and thank Him for them one by one as you pray in your closet. This will help you to be grateful (**Philippians 4:6**). It will also help you to realize your dependence on God (**Acts 17:24-25,28; John 15:5**).

**4 - MAKE & MAINTAIN A LIST OF YOUR FAULTS.** And pray for forgiveness and help to overcome them as you truly strive to overcome them. This will help us see that we are really not as good as we think we are and how very much we really do need Christ for Savior. It will also help you to sympathize with the faults of others (**James 5:16; Galatians 6:1**).

**5 - KEEP A QUIET TIME.** Set aside 30 minutes every day to

spend with God in prayer, Bible study, and meditation. If you really love someone or a game you want to spend some time with them. Just so, if you truly love God you want to spend some time alone with Him. (**Psalms 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1**). First century Christians kept an "hour of prayer" (**Acts 13:1**).

**6 - VISIT SOMEONE FOR CHRIST EACH WEEK.** Visit some member you do not know very well; or a sick person; or a visitor to our services; or a weak member who needs encouragement; or someone who needs to become a Christian.

**7 - REACH ANOTHER PERSON (RAP).** Conduct a Bible class in your home once a month and invite your relatives, friends and neighbors to attend. The preacher or elders will assist you if you want them to. (**Matt. 5:12-15; James 5:20; Daniel 12:3**). There are 168 hours in a week. If you were to attend Bible Study, morning worship, and evening worship on Sundays and Bible study on Wednesday, and 30 minutes 6 days a week in Bible reading, prayer, and meditation, and conduct an hour long study once a month, you would be giving God less than 10 hours a week, leaving you 158.



<b>Sunday 5:15</b> Kid's Class at the Building	<b>Monday 7 PM</b> Men's Class at Walker Davis'	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> Ladies Class on "Parenting" at Student Center - Room 2310	<b>Wednesday 10 AM</b> Ladies Class on "Parenting" at Laura Humphrey's	<b>Tuesday 7 PM</b> College Study at Bob Simpson's	<b>Saturday Classes</b> 7th-12th Grade—TBA 1st-6th Grade—TBA
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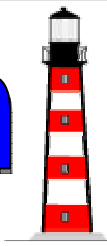
Sick			
Richard Wood (Melanie Smith's Uncle)	Eli Williams (Friend of Sarah Norman)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Stephen Freeman (Phillip Box's Friend)
Virginia Crawford (Hunter's Sister-in-Law)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Easton Alexander (Phillip Box's cousin's baby)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Gaylord Huffman (Jennifer Daniel's Grandfather)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Betty Bradford	Brenda Chandler (Mason Chandler's Mother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Dale Herd (William Herd's brother)	Larry Alexander (Friend of Phillip Box)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Melissa Walker (Church Hahn's Cousin)	Ann Robinson (Sharon Bailey's Mom)	Marion Vanttal (Paula Davis' Uncle)

April Birthdays
2 - Missy Toombs
2 - Melanie Smith
3 - Sharon Bailey
6 - Maci Guthrie
7 - Mary Catherine Burns
8 - Laura Humphrey
10 - Stefan Richardson
14 - Kaylee West
14 - Jesse Roberts
16 - Carson Fowler
18 - Spencer Sullivan
18 - Joel Black
18 - Taylor Godwin
20 - April Jerkins
21 - Timothy Jones
23 - Anna Miller
24 - Bob Simpson
29 - Lottie Kate Smith

News and Notes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Let us be working towards our VBS on June 18-21!
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Let us remember David Hartsell and his family in our prayers. The next few days will be critical for his future recovery.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Let us remember our expectant mothers in our prayers, Candy Long and Terria Burton.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Address:  <b>Josh and Haley Hudson</b> <b>500 Webster Road</b> <b>Auburn, AL 36832</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Bell will be speaking this morning. We are supporting him in his work in Harrisonburg, Virginia!

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# The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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## Thoughts to Ponder

Man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement; he is a rebel who must lay down his arms. This means killing part of yourself, undergoing a kind of death.

**Do You Have a Bible Question?**  
Call (334) 734-2133 or E-mail: LarryRouse@aubeacon.com

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**Sunday**  
Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

## Does Repentance Precede Faith?

By Hiram Hutto

A person does not need to have listened to very much preaching - whether on the radio, television, or other places - to know that there are preachers who are telling people, "All you have to do to be saved is 'believe in Jesus'; 'accept Him as your personal Savior'."

Some preachers have even been willing to affirm in public debate that a person is saved from his sins at the point of faith. Naturally this brings up quite a few complications, not the least of which is: If all a person has to do to be saved is to believe, he does not have to repent, or if he is saved at the point of faith he is saved before and without repentance. Not many are willing to say that God will save a sinner whether he repents or not, or God will save the impenitent. After all, it is "Repent or perish" according to **2 Pet. 3:9**, and God does "command all men everywhere to repent" (**Acts 17:30**).

### Neither Reasonable nor Scriptural

In an effort to justify this obviously unscriptural position, (saved at the point of faith)--preachers (have resorted to the argument that repentance precedes faith, So, after a sinner repents he believes, and then

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can he saved at the point of faith!

The idea that repentance precedes faith is not only contrary to scripture but it is also contrary to reason. After all, how could a sinner repent of having sinned against God, when he doesn't even believe there is a God? Then, too, since sin is the transgression of God's law (**1 Jn. 3:4**), before a person would repent of having transgressed God's law, he would have to believe that there was a God and that He had a law. He certainly would not repent if he did not believe in God, much less that He had a law that he had violated.

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Repentance before faith is also contrary to scripture. Sometimes it is asserted that every time faith and repentance are mentioned together in the Bible, repentance always is mentioned first; repentance always precedes faith. This is just not true. It is true that many times faith and repentance are mentioned together, and sometimes repentance is mentioned first, but not always.

For example, consider **Acts 2**. Peter had preached about the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. He concluded his sermon by saying, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (**2:36**). To "know assuredly" is to have the strongest kind of faith. After all, faith is the "assurance of things hoped for" (**Heb. 11:1 ASV**). Having told them first to have this strong assurance (faith), he, then tells them, "Repent and be baptized..." (**Acts 2:35**). Here we see faith preceding repentance. The claim that repentance always is mentioned prior to faith in the scriptures is not a true claim.

Even if this were a true claim that repentance is always mentioned prior to faith, it does not necessarily mean that it precedes it in fact. For example, we often say, "Put on your shoes and socks." We certainly do not mean that the shoes go on first and then the socks, do we?

Then, too, consider what Peter told the Jews in **Acts 5:30**, "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree." Does this mean that the Jews first "slew" Christ, and then after they had slain him, they later "hanged him on a tree"? Certainly not. But the "slaying" is mentioned before the "hanging", but it certainly does not mean that it occurred **in that order**. And so it is with faith and repentance. Just because repentance may sometimes be mentioned before faith, it certainly does not mean that they occur in that order.

**Passages Where Repentance is Mentioned before Faith**

In at least four passages (**Matt. 21:32; Mk. 1:15; Acts 20: 21 ; Heb. 6:1**) repentance is mentioned first:

"And ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterwards, that ye might believe him" (**Matt. 21:32**).

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel" (**Mk. 1:15**).

"Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (**Acts 20:21**).

"Not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God" (**Heb. 6:1**).

While it is true that the word repentance is mentioned in these before the word faith, please notice that in not one of these passages is it repentance and faith toward the same person or thing.

Look at **Acts 20:21**. It is repentance toward God and faith toward Jesus Christ. In **Heb. 6:1**, it is repentance from dead works and faith toward God. It also needs to be remembered that in this latter passage as well as **Matt. 21:32** and **Mk. 1:15**, the address is made to people who were Jews; people who already believed in God. He certainly was not telling them to **begin** to believe in God. When the Bible tells us that "Abraham believed in the Lord" (**Gen. 15:6**), it certainly does not mean that he then believed in God for the very first time. Before we could conclude that repentance does in fact precede faith, scripture would have to be given that would show that one must repent toward Jesus Christ and then believe in Christ. And also show that that is the way it must be. But such a passage has not been given, nor can it be shown that the sequence must come that way.

The effort to get repentance before faith is an unscriptural effort. Not only because it reverses the proper order, but also because it is usually done to try to refute the Bible's teaching that a penitent believer is saved after he is baptized scripturally and not before. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (**Mk. 16:16**). Let's not only believe that, let it also be properly acted upon.



## Killed With His Own Poison

By James W. Adams

Bitterness, hate, evil-speaking, innuendo, misrepresentation are the "carnal weapons" of the evil one. Faith, truth, loyalty, purity, and works of faith are the armaments of Christians. With these God can and will give us the victory!

In Southwest Texas where I was reared, there is a species of cactus known by the Mexicans as "tasajilla." (I cannot vouch for the spelling.) It is made up of long jointed stems having extremely long thorns with wicked points. In that section there are also many rattlesnakes, enemies of man and beast, some attaining a length of six or seven feet. This venomous reptile is, however, plagued by enemies. One of these is a long-legged bird known popularly as a "Road-runner" and by the Mexicans as a "Paisano." It is commonly seen running across and along the highways of Southwest Texas. It has long black legs and beak and is mottled gray and black in color. Many rattlesnakes are executed by this innocuous looking creature.

The execution takes place in the following fashion: The bird will find the snake asleep; he will carefully gather a supply of the little spine-like joints of the "tasajilla" bush and with them build a fence or corral around the sleeping snake; having finished the fence, the bird will then fly at the snake and scream at in a high-pitched tone characteristic of the "Road-runner;" the snake will awaken and try to crawl away, but the spines of the "tasajilla" fence will prick his belly and he will draw back; the "Road-runner" will continue to fly at the snake and draw back quickly all the while uttering its shrill cry; the snake will strike and miss and be rewarded for its effort by pricking its tender underside on the "tasajilla;" finally, the snake will become so enraged and frustrated that he will bite himself and be destroyed by his own venom.

As in much of nature, there is a lesson for man in this circumstance. All of us, even Christians, are two-fold beings—body and spirit, animal man and spiritual man, carnal mind and spiritual mind. The animal nature of man, prompted by lust and passion when not controlled, is filled with deadly venom much as the rattlesnake. The Devil and his emissaries are well aware of this fact, hence constantly seek to arouse in the Christian this sleeping, deadly beast. Worldly men and false brethren are often tools of Satan in his efforts to destroy God's children. Finding they cannot seduce God's people otherwise, they will resort to persecution, innuendo, defamation of character, and misrepresentation of many species in an effort to stir up the Christian's animal passion and cause him in fighting back to destroy himself with his own poison.

Christians must oppose evil and false doctrine within and without the church, but let us take care! The Devil and his emissaries are not limited as to weapons, but the Christian must not employ "carnal weapons" (**2 Cor. 10:4**) in his warfare. Let us not in anger and frustration generated by this fact destroy ourselves. Let us humbly and meekly bear the onslaughts of the wicked employing only truth as our weapon in withstanding his attack. Bitterness, hate, evil-speaking, innuendo, misrepresentation are the "carnal weapons" of the evil one. Faith, truth, loyalty, purity, and works of faith are the armaments of Christians. With these God can and will give us the victory!

