

OKC Nav Conference – Workshop:

Description in Conference Booklet: The Bare Essentials – A Survey of the Spiritual Basics

This workshop will be a conversation focused on the essentials necessary to effectively relate to our Heavenly Father and accurately portray Christ to others. It will be an interactive and practical discussion of the means necessary to appropriate what the Apostle Peter referred to as “all that we need for life and godliness” while pointing out that these resources have already been provided to every believer. So, whether you are relatively early in your Christian journey or well on your way, there will be something for everyone to help you deepen your experience with God.

Define our terms - - what I think of when talking about “Basics” or “Bare Essentials”.

Relate this perception to our spiritual life

The Bare
Essentials

Not a Passive Responsibility

Initial Focus on first Essential

What does it take to establish and/or cultivate love in a relationship with God or anyone else? Keep in mind that the more we truly know Him, the more lovable we discover He is.

A. – Ensure that you have one (relationship that is). Difference here is the distinction between knowing about someone versus knowing them.

B. – Realize that it takes time to get to know another person

C. – Explore the five means by which our familiarity with someone fosters love

1. Time spent together in effective communication
2. Intimacy – not talking about physical relationships but emotional; connecting on a deeper level
3. Respect the relationship
4. Reflection (worship) – spend time thinking about them, reflecting on who they are and what they've done.
5. Prioritize the relationship. Demonstrate its importance. Its value is then reflected in our schedule, our pocketbook, etc.

I intentionally orchestrated this workshop today to share with you just as much about the Why as with the How. I am convinced that without a good understanding of the Why, you won't continue in the How.

Three Critical Instruments of Grace:

- Daily Time with Him (Quite Time / Morning Watch)

Luke 9:23 - Then He said to *them* all, "*If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*"

Galatians 2:20 (NASB) - *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

Romans 12:1 - *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.*

John 12:24, 25 - "*Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal.*"

Psalm 143:8 "Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul."

Colossians 2:6-9 Living "And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust him, too, for each day's problems; live in vital union with him. Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all he has done. Don't let others spoil your faith and joy with their philosophies, their wrong and shallow answers built on men's thoughts and ideas, instead of on what Christ has said. For in Christ there is all of God in a human body."

Same picture in the Old Testament in Isaiah 37:31 "And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward."

John 15:1-5 (PH) - *I am the real vine, my Father is the vine-dresser. He removes any of my branches which are not bearing fruit and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit to increase its yield. Now, you have already been pruned by my words. You must go on growing in me and I will grow in you. For just as the branch cannot bear any fruit unless it shares the life of the vine, so you can produce nothing unless you go on growing in me. I am the vine itself, you are the branches. It is the man who shares my life and whose life I share who proves fruitful. For the plain fact is that apart from me you can do nothing at all.*

What does one need?

- A Time
- A Place
- Some Resources – Bible, Devotionals, a way to make notes

Use conversational prayer. Talk to God about what God wants to talk about.

- A Pure Heart

Psalm 139:23, 24 - *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Ask – Is everything OK between you and me?

If what you are doing isn't working for you – don't chuck it; change it! Read more and pray less of vice versa. Change translations, use a devotional, etc.

Bible Assimilation (Reading - Study – Memorization – Meditation)

1) Bible study is essential to growth.

I Peter 2:2 - *Like newborn babes, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow in your salvation.*

2) Bible study is essential to spiritual maturity.

Hebrews 5:11-14 - *Concerning Him [Christ] we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk, and not solid food. For every one who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

3) Bible study is essential to spiritual effectiveness.

II Timothy 2:15 - *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. (NASB)*

My number one recommendation for Bible Study is to read it. See Gordon Fee book on how to read the Bible for all its worth.

Use a good study translation (did not say study bible). ESV, NASB, NET, NIV, NKJV

Personal discovery is key. Fill in the blank studies are good ways to start if you are unfamiliar with the layout of the Bible or its themes – but the sooner you can get away from them the better.

Introduce concept of “Phrasing”

Assign verse to memorize - Ezra 7:10

Prayer (in addition to the Quite Time)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - *Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Jer. 33:3 - *Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know*

Phil 1:3 and 7 - Paul kept these people in his prayers and his heart

Psalm 116:1, 2 (LIV) – *"I love the Lord because he hears my prayers and answers them. Because he bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I breathe!"*

Story of "Beyond the Ranges" about the early days of China Inland Mission.

Story of my uncle

Helps: Keep letters, notes from people as reminders of who and what

Example of specific versus for people noted in my bible

Have groups of people associated with certain days of the week (i.e. family on Monday, country leaders on Tuesday, co-workers on Wednesday, Christian family on Thursday, non-Christian friends on Friday, etc.)

Second Essential Focus – Love People

Cannot overstate this point – if you have not done the first part, you cannot do the second part. Without knowing and loving Him, you are without the means to love others left to your own devices – at least in the way He’s asked us to.

2 Corinthians 5:14-18 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁴ Christ’s love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ¹⁵ He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! ¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

Relating to (Loving) Other Christians - - "The One Another's"

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:16

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 13:8

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to **love one another**, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

Romans 14:13

Therefore let us **stop passing judgment on one another.** Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

Romans 15:7

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you,

Romans 15:14

I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to **instruct one another.**

1 Corinthians 1:10

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you **agree with one another** in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, **encourage one another**, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Galatians 5:13

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, **serve one another** humbly in love.

Ephesians 4:2

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, **bearing with one another** in love.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 5:21

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:16

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you **teach and admonish one another** with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Hebrews 3:13

But **encourage one another** daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how we may **spur one another on toward love and good deeds**, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 13:1

Keep on **loving one another** as brothers and sisters.

James 4:11

Brothers and sisters, **do not slander one another**. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

James 5:9

Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

1 Peter 1:22

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, **love one another** deeply, from the heart.

1 Peter 4:9

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

1 Peter 5:5

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, **clothe yourselves with humility toward one another**, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

1 John 3:23

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to **love one another** as he commanded us.

Relating to Non-Christians

May look at some of the caricatures that I downloaded and talk about Jim's statement that people don't reject Christ – what they find offensive is a caricature of Him.

Jesus example

- doing good

Acts 10:38 - - *God anointed **Jesus** of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He **went about doing good** and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.*

- doing all things well

Mark 7:37 - *And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "**He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf **hear** and the mute speak.**"*

Share the Word

- It is living and powerful and creative

Heb. 4:12 - *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

1 Peter 1:23 - *You have been made God's children. He did not make you his children by something that dies, but by something that cannot die. That is the word of God.*

Share What You've Seen and Heard

Don't try to share someone else's stuff.

Acts 22:15 - *You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard.*

Share Naturally

Colossians 1:28, 29 (PH) - *So, naturally, we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ. This is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength that God gives me.*

Philemon 6 (LIV) - *And I pray that as you share your faith with others it will grip their lives too, as they see the wealth of good things in you that come from Christ Jesus.*

Example of "Phrasing"

Philippians 2:1-4

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

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BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea
A great high Priest whose Name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I am
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God!