

Squeeky says...

Hi Everybody...

I knew it! I just knew it! Someone would eventually get around to talking about exercise. I know there is no acceptable excuse for not exercising but I think mine is an exception. You see, I was pretty fit before I started following God. I used to scurry around frightening children and ladies, I was always the first to reach the cheese someone dropped and I could



The Tabernacle's resident church mouse, philosopher and occasional complainer

outrun any cat that came across my path. In fact, I would tease them just to keep my skills sharp. But I don't do

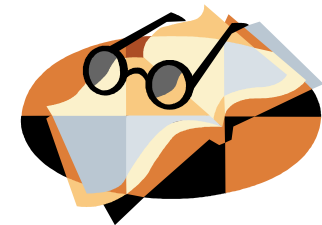
those things anymore. Therefore, I don't use as much energy as I did in the old days. I'm pretty mellow, actually. My metabolism has slowed down, too, since I've reached middle age. Now, the only thing I exercise is my nose when I'm following the scent of food. To top it off, I think I might be suffering from Dunlap's Disease (my belly done lap over my belt). I find it a whole lot easier to exercise my faith than my body. What's a fella to do? Do they make treadmills for someone my size? Maybe I should give it a try.

TABERNACLE COMMUNITY

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TIDBITS
June
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Learning to love GOD
And one another



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John 13:34-35

Increasing our appetite for GOD... tidbits from Don & Linda Lees

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BOB & CAROLE JONES

Bob and Carole divide their time between Florida and New Hampshire. They named their Northern home, Father's Place, where many friends have found quiet respite during the Summer months.

A trip to Turkey 8 years ago ignited a passion in them for the people, which grows stronger each time they visit. They have seen the locations of all seven churches mentioned in the book of Revelation.

Because many of Peter's and Paul's letters were written to these churches and John's Revelation includes admonitions from Jesus to these churches, Bob and Carole are convinced God still has a great destiny for this part of the world, though current events would say otherwise.

With the eyes of Jesus, they see the churches restored and flourishing. The place where some of the earliest Christians began their new lives in Christ can once again become a hub where the Gospel of Jesus Christ goes forth in power.

Bob and Carole are always happy to share their thoughts, hope and love for the people of Turkey.

The Body of Christ...

Ministering unto the Lord is a privilege of the priesthood of believers but hearing God and abiding in His presence is a requirement in order to be effective.

While reading the explanation of the parable of the sower in Luke 8:10-18, I was reminded how crucial it is to not be distracted by outside influences. In this explanation by Jesus, the seed is the logos or divine expression of GOD. In all but the last category, the divine expression is provided to the hearer but taken away by first the devil, or temptation, or cares, riches and pleasures of this life. Have you ever allowed this to happen to you? It seems we no sooner receive inspiration from God and then an event or circumstance invades us and tries to steal the blessing.

The last category of hearer, Jesus says, has an honest and good heart and, having heard the word, keeps (retains) it and bring forth fruit with patience. The difference with this hearer is he doesn't allow anything to take away that which God has given. When I am aware that God is faithful and worthy to be trusted, it allows me the greatest ministry unto Him and that is to receive from Him.

The statement Jesus makes in verse 18 has impacted me the most regarding my responsibility to hear Him and to value, retain and embrace what I hear so that more will be given by Him. What an awesome God!



Practical Suggestions...

"Use it or lose it." We've all heard that slogan. When I first started exercising, I cried every day as I jogged along the road. It was hard putting my body, heart and lungs through that torture. Soon, though, I got used to it and didn't cry anymore. Then I discovered aerobics and strength training classes, which better suited my social nature. Exercise became fun. But what would happen if I stopped going to the gym for long periods of time? I would lose everything I had gained in muscle tone and healthy respiration.

The same thing is true for my spiritual health. I can take hold of a scriptural truth, pray about it, believe it and use it. But if I don't continue to base my thoughts and actions on what I have learned, I will lose ground. I will stop growing spiritually. Psalm 119:11 says, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee."

Let's all encourage each other to keep on keeping on in our walk with Jesus.

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