

Celebrate Recovery VIII: Yield Myself to God

December 6th & 7th, 2014

Luke 8:26-39

“...declare how much God has done for you...”

- ❖ This man with a demon was hopeless; under Satan’s control; a danger to society; no friends; no home; no clothes; and he lived among the dead.
- ❖ When the man saw Jesus, “... *he ran and fell down before Him.*” Mark 5:6
- ❖ Jesus delivered him from the power of Satan and healed his life!
- ❖ Jesus told him to tell others how much God had done for him ... and he did!

Eight Principles ...

1. **R**eadize I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable. ...
2. **E**arnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.
3. **C**onsciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.
4. **O**penly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.
5. **V**oluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.
6. **E**valuate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.
7. **R**eserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.
8. **Y**ield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words. ¹

Principle Eight: **Y**ield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words.

“Principle 8 is the ‘giving back’ principle. It’s about giving back because we *want* to, not because we *have* to. We want to share the freedom and victory God has given us with others who are still trapped in their hurts, hang-ups, and habits ... Matthew 10:8 sums up the heart of Principle 8: ‘Freely you have received, freely give.’”²

- ❖ Principle 8 is based on the eighth beatitude, Matthew 5:10,
“*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*”

📖 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

Step Twelve: Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps, we try to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

“*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourselves, lest you too be tempted.*” Galatians 6:1

“We are never more like God than when we give – not just money or things but our very selves. That’s what Jesus did for us. He gave us the greatest gift of all – Himself.”³

“*He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?*” Romans 8:32

Whatever God says, our answer is always YES!

Yield myself to God

“To truly practice this principle, we must give God the latitude He needs to use as He sees fit. We do that by presenting everything we have – our time, talents, and treasures – to Him.”³

“People take your example far more seriously than they take your advice.”³

Philippians 3:8 “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ”

Example is what is important

“Your walk needs to match your talk ...

If you want someone to see what Christ will do for them, let them see what Christ has done for you.

Here is a question to ask yourself when you get to this principle: Does my lifestyle reflect what I believe?”³

1 Timothy 1:5 “The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

Serve others as Jesus Christ did

“The world is full of two kinds of people – givers and takers. The takers eat well and the givers sleep well. Be a giver.”³

“Principle 8 comes down to this: Do what you can, with what you have, where you are. Make your life a mission, not an intermission!”³

“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.’ And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.”
Luke 8:39

Endnotes:

¹ Baker, John. "Eight Principles Based on the Beatitudes By Pastor Rick Warren." *Growing in Christ While Helping Others*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012. 10. Print.

² Baker, John. *Your First Step to Celebrate Recovery: How God Can Heal Your Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013. Print.

³ Baker, John. *Celebrate Recovery: Leader's Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012. Print.

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