

# How To Be A Better Christian

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by Wayne Goff

Last Sunday night's lesson by Wayne Fancher was a good, straight-forward lesson on *how to be a better Christian*. As simple as it seems, the five points he made comprise a good starting point for anyone who truly wants to be better.

1. **Read the Bible more**
2. **Pray more**
3. **Come to worship**
4. **Spend time with brethren**
5. **Teach others**

Can it really be that simple? Perhaps we should add #6 - Visit orphans and widows in their trouble, James 1:27. But other than that, yes, it **IS** that simple. Jesus said in John 7:17 (KJV): *"If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."* In other words, try true Christianity and see for yourself! So let's see why these things are the foundation of faith:

## Communication With God

The first two points, read the Bible and pray involve our communication with God. No man can know what God thinks of us, or wants of us, or expects of us until He first **reads** the Bible. *"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God"* (1 Cor. 2:11). The Spirit of God is revealed in the Word of God, and there is where we let God speak to us!

Secondly, we desire to talk to God and that involves prayer. We have worries, anxieties, needs and weaknesses, and God can help when we **pray!** *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 4:6-7). *"Casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you"* (1 Pet. 5:7). A lack of prayer comes from either a lack of faith or a lack of understanding. Effective, fervent prayer avails much, James 5:16.

## Fellowship With Saints

The next two points involve our love and association with fellow Christians. Not only do we obey God's commands regarding worship on the first day of the week — prayer, singing, communion, giving, and Bible study — but we also have the opportunity to help *"one another."* We are taught to love our neighbor as ourselves. We come together to *"exhort one another"* (Heb. 10:25), and to *"consider one another in order to stir up love and good works"* (Heb. 10:24). We all need love, acceptance, and positive encouragement and God has provided for these in worship. So come to worship!

Outside the assembly, we can *"be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another"* (Rom. 12:10). Time spent with spiritually-minded people can only help you become more spiritually-minded yourself! As the saying goes, "Birds of a feather, flock together!" We see saints gathering together at Mary's house when Peter was wrongfully imprisoned (Acts 12:12). Peter knew where they would be, and when released by an angel he went straight to her house! One of the biggest mistakes new Christians make is the failure to "make friends of God's children" as the song "Take Time To Be Holy" reads.

## Caring For Others

The next two points (if you include my #6) involves caring for the lost of this world, and for the unfortunate among us. As individuals, we can all be like the good Samaritan (Lk. 10:33ff) and "visit the orphans and widows" (James 1:27). And we can share the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ with the lost — friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family. *"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?..."* (Matt. 16:26). The **deeper** our conviction, the **greater** will be our passion to help save the lost. Brethren, look for opportunities — they are all around us — at the grocery store, gas station, school, work, neighborhood, etc.! Who can you talk to about Jesus? Anyone with whom you come into contact on any given day. So let's all try to be better Christians. **300902**