

“LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP”

By Keith Greer

“...Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch. But Simon answered and said to Him, ‘Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.’” {Luke 5:4,5} When Peter followed the Lord’s instructions, he caught so many fish that the nets broke! Let’s use this fish story as a basis for discussing why God’s people should be willing to “launch out into the deep.”

Spiritual Meditation. “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.” {1 Timothy 4:13-15} God’s children must continually seek for knowledge to enable them to grow spiritually stronger. Simply reading the Bible is unlikely to increase our knowledge; it takes a deeper study and harvest. “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.” {Psalm 1:1,2} Do you “launch out into the deep” in your personal studies of God’s divine will?

Gratitude. “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things...” {Psalm 103:1-5} We need always to remember how blessed we truly are. God knows what we need, even before we ask Him {Matthew 6:8}. Every good gift comes to us from the Father {James 1:17}. When did you last thank God for all the things with which He has blessed you?

Personal Giving. “For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.” {2 Corinthians 8:3-5} Paul commended the Corinthian brethren for going “beyond their ability.” Whenever we talk about giving, most brethren think about what they give on the first day of the week. This is certainly an important part of our giving, but it’s not the only way we give back to God. He expects us to be totally committed to Him. Have you truly surrendered all to Him?

Love for the Souls of Others. “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.” {Romans 10:1,2} We can “launch out into the deep” to capture lost souls if, and only if, we truly love them. Do we take advantage of every opportunity with which we are presented to tell folks the wonderful story of God’s love? Personal evangelism takes time, effort, and maybe money; but most of all, it means giving ourselves to help those who are lost and dying in sin.

Desire for Heaven. *“By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” {Hebrews 11:10}* Remember, we need always to be certain we are setting our sights on what is eternal and not on the temporal things of this world. God’s servants must make a choice between the fleeting things of this world and the eternal things which lie ahead of us! Heaven should be the supreme goal for which every child of God is willing to “**launch out into the deep.**”***