

Impact Families For A Lifetime!

FAMILY CODE OF HONOR

- Great sermon for a “Family Sunday” with kids and teenagers.
- Loaded with illustrations
- End with a family communion time



GROW FOR IT



The Word of God is very clear that there is a battle going on the inside of us. Good versus evil. The born again spirit versus our flesh carnal nature. Even as ministers and leaders we all deal with this on-going struggle. If we are not careful we can easily fall into a performance trap. This is when our

values, morals, and beliefs are determined because of our position of leadership. Add in Bible time that is 90% sermon prep for the benefit of the people and you end up living a shell of Christianity with no substance. Your boundaries are set by public perception and your connection to God is to be a pipeline to people. The result is a works based shallow relationship with God.



At the beginning of each year I always seem to get a one word theme for our church. This past December the word for our church in 2011 was GROW. 1 Peter 2:2 tells us, “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk (of the Word), so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,” we needed to increase our intake of the Word. Of course I thought this would be great for the people of my church. Never realizing how much my life would be impacted by a more intentional path of spiritual growth. One of the primary things we have done as a church is made a commitment to memorize and meditate on God’s Word throughout our day. Each weekend in our bulletin we have a scripture card inserted that has two short passages or promises from the Bible. I challenge people to put them on their bathroom mirror, refrigerator, desk, and dashboard of their car and throughout each day for the seven days read it out loud, quoting the chapter and verse. For those who have committed to do it the results have been amazing. It has given literal meaning to Proverbs when it says we are to, “Fasten wisdom around our neck.” I have my personal Bible times, but to continually be quoting and meditating on the Word of God throughout the day has caused amazing growth.

Romans chapter eight makes it very clear that whichever source you feed the most will win the inward battle. The works of the law tells people, “You need to stop doing that . . . You need to change this . . .” It is all too easy for believers to get caught up in trying to make changes in their life out of their own strength and ability. My simple phrase to our church was, “Feed your spirit. Starve the monkey (flesh nature).” I placed a small monkey around my neck. I can easily control this monkey. It does not have the strength to dominate my life. But if I continually feed the flesh and carnal nature, the monkey begins to grow . . . and grow . . . and ultimately begins to have strength to rule my life. Thus, we end up like Paul described in Romans chapter seven. “The things I want to do I don’t do and the things I don’t want to do is what I end up doing.” The enemy wants to keep us under the law of works. So he feeds us the mindset that we need to “fight the monkey.” So we see pastors and parishioners alike in a fight to stop the things they don’t want to do. As I tell people in counseling appointments, “Stop trying to not sin and overdose on God’s Word.” Focus on “doing” versus the “not doing.” When our focus and delight is set on God’s Word we will grow and see the amazing fruit in everyday life.

Psalms 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Personally, I would have told you four months ago I was spiritually strong. After ramping up God’s Word in my life even more I have seen an increase in my faith, a greater boldness in ministry, and my life becoming even more like Jesus! There is always room to GROW! There is always room to improve! I have experienced an increased resiliency to the effects of the world and a greater flow of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.



As pastors and leaders our goal is to minister out of a reservoir versus a bucket. Be careful to not fall into the trap of going to the throne room to get a bucket of water to deliver to the thirsty people. Become so full of God and His Word that you minister from the overflow and reservoir of growth, wisdom, and abundance. I know this sounds simple, but I dare you to personally make the commitment to start printing out several verses of the Bible each week to meditate on and memorize as you go through your day.

Just For Fun

A lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars then insured them against, among other things, fire. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost 'in a series of small fires.'



The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The lawyer sued and WON! (It gets better.)

Delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company, in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable 'fire' and was obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the cigars that perished in the 'fires'.

NOW FOR THE BEST PART...

After the lawyer cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of ARSON!!! With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.

This true story won First Place in last year's Criminal Lawyers Award contest.

H2O Sermon Source | P.O. Box 63355 | Colorado Springs, Colorado | 80962
888-WATER-88 | 888-928-3788 | 719-481-3089

www.h2oSermonSource.com
info@deanhawk.com