

Moving Forward

Luke 9:62

As we reach the end of 2010, it is natural to want to look back on the year and reflect over what has happened. Sometimes this kind of reflection can be helpful. However, just as often this kind of reflection can do more harm than good. In our Christian walk we must constantly be aware of whether we are reflecting on the past or moving forward. Our calling is to move forward. The problem is that moving forward is challenging. Moving forward requires spiritual power, great love, and tremendous discipline.

A Lack of Power

Why do we need spiritual power?

We are at _____
We need _____

What causes a lack of spiritual power?

Luke 9:37-43
Too little _____
Too little _____

*Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers.
Pray for powers equal to your tasks.*

Phillips Brooks

A Lack of Love

Why do we need love?

It is _____
It is _____

Who needs this love?

Luke 9:46-55
We need to love _____
We need to love _____
We need to love _____

The desire of power in excess caused the angels to fall; the desire of knowledge in excess caused man to fall, but in love there is no excess, neither can angel or man come in danger by it.

Francis Bacon

A Lack of Discipline

Why do we need discipline?

You aren't a _____

What must we do to have discipline?

Luke 9:57-62
Count the _____
Place _____
Don't turn _____

Making It Personal

We need to _____

We need to _____

We need to _____

You can judge the quality of their faith from the way they behave. Discipline is an index to doctrine.

Tertullian

Faith, prayer, love, and discipline are the calling of all Christians. Without these things are lives will be empty of true spiritual power. Without these things we won't love anyone, not even ourselves. Without these things we will never be fit servants in God's Kingdom, let alone warriors in the battle to save the souls of lost men and women.

Being a Christian means hard work. Being a Christian means taking up a difficult, and sometimes even dangerous, challenge. Being a Christian means looking ahead to what God will do, not looking behind at what we've missed. It's a challenge we all need to face in this coming year.