

**Fit for Life**  
**Parkview Church**  
**Class #3 -- Growing Spiritually**  
**April 22, 2018**

*And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*  
Luke 2:52 (NIV)

**I. AM I CERTAIN I'M SAVED BY GOD'S GRACE?**

*<sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*  
John 5:24 (ESV)

**II. DO I REALLY WANT TO GROW?**

*<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*  
Matthew 5:6 (ESV)

Hunger and thirst pictures three things for me.

**A. I Can't Live Without It.**

**B. It Draws Me Toward The Source.**

**C. The Source Gives Me Joy.**

*<sup>23</sup> And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*  
Luke 9:23 (ESV)

*Jesus said to all of them, "If people want to follow me, they must give up the things they want. They must be willing to give up their lives daily to follow me.*  
Luke 9:23 (NCV)

### III. WILL I DISCIPLINE MYSELF FOR GROWTH?

*“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”* 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

- ❖ **Effective, growing people develop disciplined habits that ineffective people are unwilling to commit to!**

*<sup>7</sup> Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; <sup>8</sup> for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7–8 (ESV)*

*Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value but spiritual exercise is more important. It promises a reward in both this life and the next.*

1 Timothy 4:7-8 (Phillips Modern English)

Developing new habits demand that I be convinced of the...

- ⇒ **Reason** -- Why should I start a new habit?
- ⇒ **Routine** -- How do I do it?
- ⇒ **Results** -- What's the payoff? What's the benefit?

**Here are the 3:**

**A. Get Time With God Every Day.**

Andrew: QT, Bible Reading/Study, Prayer

**B. Give a Tithe to God Every Week (.**

**C. Living as a Team for God.**

Fellowship, Community, Service – NEXT WEEK!

**A. Get Time With God Every Day.**

**Reason:** We fellowship with God to get to know and love Him more and more so we can glorify Him and get direction from Him.

*“Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me; teach me; for you are the God who gives me salvation. I have no hope except in you.”*  
Ps 25:4-5 (LB)

**Routine:** Andrew will cover in a little bit...

**B. Give A Tithe To God Every Week.** (Time/Talent/Treasure)

**Why would anybody do that?**

**Reason:** It draws me closer to God, and puts him first in my life.  
God wants to use me as a steward to accomplish His will.

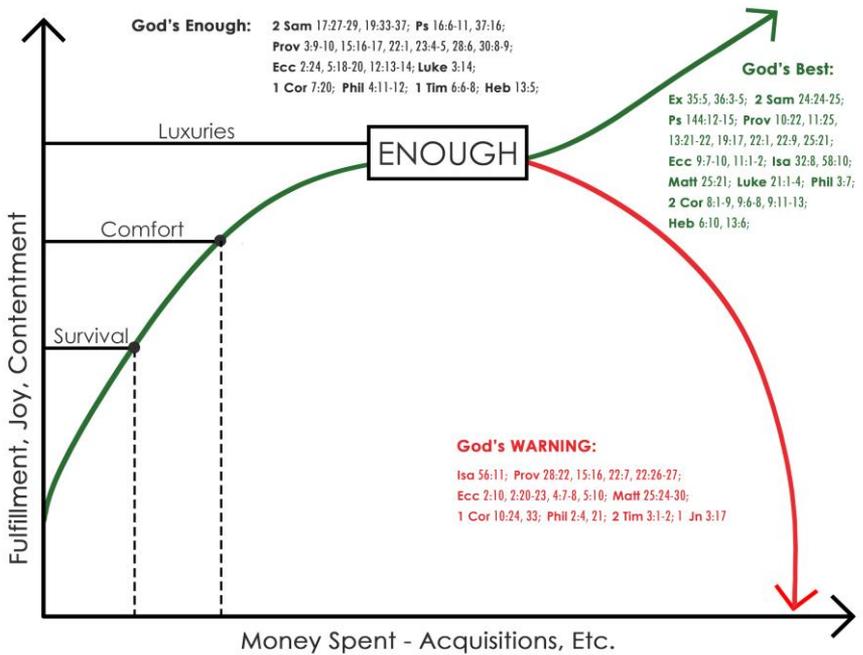
*“Where your treasure is, there your heart is also.”* Matt 6:21

*Bring this tithe to eat before the Lord your God at the place he shall choose as his sanctuary; this applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn of your flocks and herds. The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.*  
Deut. 14:23 (TLB)

**Routine:** I'm to give consistently, joyfully, and generously.

<sup>2</sup> *On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.*  
1 Corinthians 16:2 (ESV)

# What keeps us from stewarding to the Lord? WHAT are the results of NOT being a good steward??



## God's ENOUGH:

- 2 Sam. 17:27-29, 19:33-37; Ps 16:6-11, 37:16; Prov 3:9-10, 15:16-17, 22:1, 23:4-5, 28:6, 30:8-9; Ecc. 2:24, 5:18-20, 12:13-14; Luke 3:14; 1 Cor. 7:20; Phil 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 6:6-8; Heb. 13:5

## God's WARNING:

- Isa 56:11; Prov 28:22, 15:16, 22:7, 22:26-27; Ecc. 2:10, 2:20-23, 4:7-8, 5:10; Matt 25:24-30; 1 Cor. 10:24, 33; Phil 2:4, 21; 2 Tim. 3:1-2; 1 Jn 3:17

## God's BEST:

- Ex. 35:5, 36:3-5; 2 Sam. 24:24-25; Psalm 144:12-15; Prov 10:22, 11:25, 13:21-22, 19:17, 22:1, 22:9 25:21; Ecc. 9:7-10, 11:1-2; Isa 32:8, 58:10; Matt 25:21; Luke 21:1-4; Phil 3:7; 2 Cor. 8:1-9, 9:6-8, 9:11-13; Heb 6:10, 13:6)

## God's ENOUGH:

*<sup>6</sup> The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. <sup>7</sup> I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. <sup>8</sup> I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. <sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. <sup>10</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. <sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*      **Psalm 16:6–11 (ESV)**

*<sup>16</sup> Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked.*      **Psalm 37:16 (ESV)**

*<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.*      **Proverbs 3:9–10 (ESV)**

*<sup>16</sup> Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it. <sup>17</sup> Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.*      **Proverbs 15:16–17 (ESV)**

*<sup>1</sup> A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.*      **Proverbs 22:1 (ESV)**

*<sup>4</sup> Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. <sup>5</sup> Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.*      **Proverbs 23:4–5 (NIV84)**

*<sup>6</sup> Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.*      **Proverbs 28:6 (ESV)**

*<sup>8</sup> Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, <sup>9</sup> lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.*      **Prov. 30:8–9 (ESV)**

*24 There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God,*  
Ecclesiastes 2:24 (ESV)

*18 Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. 19 Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. 20 For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.*  
Ecclesiastes 5:18–20 (ESV)

*13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.*  
Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 (ESV)

*14 Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”*  
Luke 3:14 (ESV)

*20 Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called.*  
1 Corinthians 7:20 (ESV)

*11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.*  
Philippians 4:11–12 (ESV)

*6 But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.*  
1 Timothy 6:6–8 (ESV)

*<sup>5</sup> Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*  
Hebrews 13:5 (ESV)

## **God’s WARNING:**

*<sup>11</sup> The dogs have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are shepherds who have no understanding; they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all.*  
Isaiah 56:11 (ESV)

*<sup>22</sup> A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him.*  
Proverbs 28:22 (NIV84)

*<sup>16</sup> Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it.*  
Proverbs 15:16 (ESV)

*<sup>7</sup> The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.*  
Proverbs 22:7 (ESV)

*<sup>26</sup> Be not one of those who give pledges, who put up security for debts. <sup>27</sup> If you have nothing with which to pay, why should your bed be taken from under you?*  
Proverbs 22:26–27 (ESV)

*<sup>10</sup> And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.*  
Ecc. 2:10 (ESV)

*<sup>20</sup> So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup> because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup> What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? <sup>23</sup> For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity. <sup>24</sup> There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God,*  
Ecclesiastes 2:20–24 (ESV)

*<sup>7</sup> Again, I saw vanity under the sun: <sup>8</sup> one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, “For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?” This also is vanity and an unhappy business.* Ecclesiastes 4:7–8 (ESV)

*<sup>10</sup> He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.* Ecclesiastes 5:10 (ESV)

*<sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’* Matthew 25:24–30 (ESV)

*<sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor...<sup>33</sup> just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.* 1 Corinthians 10:24, 33 (ESV)

*<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>21</sup> For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.* Philippians 2:4, 21 (ESV)

*<sup>1</sup> But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 2* Timothy 3:1–2 (ESV)

*17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?* **1 John 3:17 (ESV)**

## **God's BEST:**

*5 Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD's contribution: gold, silver, and bronze;* **Exodus 35:5 (ESV)**

*3 And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, <sup>4</sup> so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, <sup>5</sup> and said to Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do."*

**Exodus 36:3–5 (ESV)**

*24 But the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. <sup>25</sup> And David built there an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD responded to the plea for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel.* **2 Samuel 24:24–25 (ESV)**

*12 May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace; <sup>13</sup> may our granaries be full, providing all kinds of produce; may our sheep bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields; <sup>14</sup> may our cattle be heavy with young, suffering no mishap or failure in bearing; may there be no cry of distress in our streets! <sup>15</sup> Blessed are the people to whom such blessings fall! Blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!* **Psalms 144:12–15 (ESV)**

*22 The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.* **Proverbs 10:22 (ESV)**

*<sup>25</sup> Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.* Proverbs 11:25 (ESV)

*<sup>21</sup> Disaster pursues sinners, but the righteous are rewarded with good. <sup>22</sup> A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.* Proverbs 13:21–22 (ESV)

*<sup>17</sup> Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.* Proverbs 19:17 (ESV)

*<sup>1</sup> A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.* Proverbs 22:1 (ESV)

*<sup>9</sup> Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.* Proverbs 22:9 (ESV)

*<sup>21</sup> If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,* Proverbs 25:21 (ESV)

*<sup>7</sup> Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. <sup>8</sup> Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head. <sup>9</sup> Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. <sup>10</sup> Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.* Ecclesiastes 9:7–10 (ESV)

*<sup>1</sup> Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. <sup>2</sup> Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.* Ecclesiastes 11:1–2 (ESV)

*<sup>8</sup> But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity.* Isaiah 32:8 (NLT)



*<sup>6</sup> The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.* **2 Corinthians 9:6–8 (ESV)**

*<sup>11</sup> You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup> This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup> Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.* **2 Corinthians 9:11–13 (NIV84)**

*<sup>10</sup> For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.* **Hebrews 6:10 (ESV)**

*<sup>6</sup> So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”* **Hebrews 13:6 (ESV)**

## **Results In: God’s blessing.**

*<sup>10</sup> Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.* **Malachi 3:10 (ESV)**

### **A. Get Time With God Every Day.**

Andrew: QT, Bible Reading/Study, Prayer