

Perspectives

Routines

Most of us are creatures of habit in many ways. Often, without giving much thought to it, we go about our daily lives doing the same things in the same way.

Much of life is about routines. We get up at a certain time, go to the same job, watch the same weekly television shows, go to bed around the same time, and repeat. If we are not careful, much of life can pass us by without our even knowing all that is going on around us.

Our spiritual lives can become, at times, a matter of routine. If we are not careful, we can attend church, serve on committees, lead small groups, and so on without giving it much thought. Although we are sincere in our service to God and others, we should always be mindful of knowing why we do what we do. Otherwise, we run the risk of doing things more out of habit or guilt, rather than mindful service.

Proverbs 4:23-27 says, “Keep vigilant watch over your heart; that’s where life starts. Don’t talk out of both sides of your mouth; avoid careless banter, white lies, and gossip. Keep your eyes straight ahead; ignore all sideshow distractions. Watch your step, and the road will stretch out smooth before you. Look neither right nor left; leave evil in the dust” (TM).

This passage points to the importance of keeping our spiritual lives in the place where we are growing in our faith. As we travel our faith journey, we must keep our hearts and minds in tune with God, seeking more of Him and less of those things that detract from our spiritual health. God calls us to fix our eyes on Him and avoid any road that leads us away from God and the things of God.

As we approach a new year, it is an opportune time to think about our spiritual path. Are you stuck, spiritually speaking, in a routine? Be open to the Holy Spirit’s leading and teaching, being mindful of the reason and purpose for the way you live in your daily walk with God. Today, let us avoid the routine and live with hopeful expectancy for what God is doing in and through us.

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

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