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Shadrach Youth Ministry

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Something to think about… from Praying Hyde: A Challenge to Prayer

"God wants those who are willing to bear the burden of the souls of these millions without God, to go with Jesus into Gethsemane. He wants us to do this. It is a blessed experience to feel that in some measure we can enter into the fellowship of Christ's sufferings. It brings us into a precious nearness to the Son of God. And not only this, but it is God's appointed way of bringing the lost sheep back to the fold. He is saying, 'Who will go for us, and whom shall I send?' Are you who read these words willing to be intercessors? If we are willing to put ourselves into God's hands, then God is willing to use us. But there are two conditions: obedience and purity. Obedience in everything, even in the *least*, surrendering up our wills and taking the will of God. And the next step is purity. God wants pure vessels for His service, clean channels through which to pour forth His grace. He wants purity in the very centre of the soul, and unless God can have a pure vessel, purified by the fire of the Holy Spirit, He cannot use that vessel. He is asking you now if you will let Him cleanse away part of your very life. God must have a vessel He can use."

"John (Hyde) used to say, 'when we keep near to Jesus, it is He who draws souls to Himself through us, but He must be lifted up in our lives; that is, we must be crucified with Him. It is 'self' in some shape that comes between us and Him, so self must be dealt with as He was dealt with. Self must be *crucified, dead and buried* with Christ. If not 'buried', the stench of the old man will frighten souls away. If *these three steps downwards* are taken as to the old man, then the new man will be *revived, raised, and seated*—the *corresponding steps upward* which God permits us to take. Then indeed Christ is lifted up in our lives, and He cannot fail to attract souls to Himself. All this is the result of a close union and communion that is 'fellowship' with Him in His sufferings!'"

(Praying Hyde: A Challenge to Prayer, Captain E. G. Carré, Editor, Revival Literature, Asheville, NC, pp. 24–25,36)

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Your First Love.....

Last month we talked about having a separation from the world. That is a difficult thing in this culture where the 'conservative Christians' even participate in worldly things.

Let's say that you have drawn the line. You have separated yourself from worldly attitudes, activities, dress. However, there still may be something missing! That would be your ever-growing and ever-burning love for Christ. The church in Ephesus was commended for being separate from the world, but rebuked because they had left their first love (Rev. 2:4). It was right and needful that they be separate, but we all need the love for Christ. How do we develop this love? We need to get to know Him.

When we are youthful, we have lofty ideas about different people and how they are idols or role models to us – we feel like they have it all together. As you get older and go through enough experiences, you realize that everyone will probably disappoint you in some way, great or small…except Jesus. So, the more you spend time with Him, the more that you will know Him. You will really see how He has set up a beautiful plan/course for believers to walk in His Word. You will notice more and more that everything good around you, whether it is a friendship, family relationship, a sunrise, a warm meal, the ability to laugh, a divine contact with a stranger or a soul-convicting sermon, are gifts straight from God and are not to be taken for granted. These will become some of your greatest joys.

Pray about making it your goal this year to 'know your First Love'. Slow yourself down and quiet your spirit to sit and wait on Him. Chew little morsels from His Word carefully. Yes, it is good and right to have dreams of adventure that Jesus could do through your life, but realize that without taking the time to know Him, the dreams will not just shatter, but will never give birth! Remember Bro. Martin's exhortations to us to pray and pray! What a difference that will make in our world and in your individual world. I heard a preacher recently say that in the early church you were not even allowed to call yourself a Christian unless you attended prayer meeting. They didn't feel that you could possibly have Christ as your *first* love if you didn't make it a priority to come and pray. How would people in today's church respond to such a true statement? Listen to what a pagan hater of Christians is recorded as saying about the early church in his day: "You do not attend sporting events. You have no interest in public amusements." These believers were so in love with Christ that they had no interest or time for the worldly, extracurricular activities! Let me tell you, it was a totally different world at that time, spiritually speaking. These weren't rules they had to follow – they were driven by their passion for Christ. This man also accused the believers of "…hating honor and purple robes." With food and raiment they were content. They had a First Love that completely consumed their lives.

The closer you get to Jesus, the more you will really, really know that He is your first love; the more you will be willing to set aside anything for Him – future plans, present activities, selfish attitudes and reactions. Joyful obedience will spring up out of your heart as He gives you this assignment today and then a different one tomorrow. What an adventure! You will be like a true lover who asks his love, "What would please you?" "Is there anything I do that doesn't please you?" As our First Love grows, then the more truly separate we will be. We will perhaps feel more odd in more and more situations. We just won't fit in. We belong to Someone else. The more we love Jesus, the more we will want people to know how wonderful He is. He is always on our mind so He is what we want to talk about. What a privilege it is to have a First Love that is absolutely perfect, Who always has our best interest at heart, Who is with us in and through everything and Who is also all-powerful in every situation. There is no earthly love that you will be able to say that about! Take time this year to make HIM your First Love. —Karin

"Spring" Shadrach Weekend in MONTANA!
March 17-19, 2006
Costs will be lodging, meals and flights to and from.
If interested, please e-mail or call us soon for more information!

The Joy of Sweeping!

One Monday this summer, my sister and I went for a visit to Grandma's house. I planned to get some idea of what I was expected to do when someone

hired me to vacuum. My Grandma decided that she would instruct me on what and what not to do when being a professional house vacuumer. I got the idea that I would be getting free training and be getting paid for my work. It turns out—I was wrong. I wasn't going to be paid… You know, I got to where I felt good about being on my hands and knees for hours, and for free. But I really felt good because I was doing it for my grandma, and I love her. —Brenna Dell Robinson

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Quote by Tertullian, an early church father:

> "The father who carefully protects and guards his virgin daughter's ears from every polluting word takes her to the theater himself, exposing her to all its vile language and attitudes." He [Tertullian] asked rhetorically, "How can it be right to *look* at the things that are wrong to *do*? How can those things which defile a man when they go out of his mouth not defile him when going in through his eyes and ears?" (see Matt. 15:17–20)

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Shadrach Report by Daniel Schuerman

Why is Shadrach named Shadrach? I believe that Pastor used this name because, first of all, it sounds better than Meshach or Abednego. Secondly, Shadrach was an extremely brave man; this is not a sissy in prayer or devotion we're talking about. This man was a PRAYER WARRIOR! He had pure devotion to God. His actions were the equivalent of a strong Christian that is faced by a very powerful man with a huge army behind him. The man comes up to him and says,

"Bow to me, or die."

Then he replies with, "You can do all the most horrible things in the world to me, but I won't change my faith."

Shadrach cared more about God than himself. All he wanted to do was serve God with all his heart. And that's what I see in this youth ministry. I haven't seen a group like Shadrach. The youth are so brave, humble and loyal, and that's why I want to be a part of this group!!

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2nd Trimester Assignments: Due January 10th, 2006

Servanthood, Witnessing, and Book Reports due as well as past Retreaters having completed a "Season Alone with God"

Keep working on the Isaiah 53 memorization (due April 10th)

Praying about what to do after high school? Check out the school founded by David Wilkerson, www.mzsom.org. (Mount Zion School of Ministry)

Witnessing Report by Ben Bailey

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A Word from Pastor Schultze… Witnessing problems?

Have you ever heard someone say, "It is so hard to witness," or perhaps, "The hardest thing in my Christian life is witnessing"? Let me ask you: could that be said of the first Christians? The answer simply is "No." The problem was that they could not keep their mouths shut. They said, ***"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard"*** *(Acts 4:20).*

So what is our problem? We go to church, we read our Bible, we go to prayer meeting, we sing in the choir, we help the needy, we dress modestly, we keep bad music out of our ears, we tithe. What is a problem with all of that; what makes it so hard to witness? Why, at best, is it that all we can say at the cash register is, "The Lord is giving us a good day," or, "Thank God for the beautiful weather," and then triumphantly we walk out of the store, having done our duty for the day.

Again, with all the religious things we do, why is it so hard to witness? The answer is simple: you can do all these other things, but you cannot witness unless you have a relationship with the one you ought to witness about. If you have a relationship with a friend, it will come out of your mouth over and over again. It will be a "I cannot help but speak..." phenomenon.

You can tell if a man has a good relationship with his wife. If so, at the first opportunity he has on meeting a stranger, he will start talking about his wife, or he will pull out a picture of her from his wallet, etc. If there is no relationship, he will say nothing about her.

Witnessing has to do with relationship. Until you have one with Jesus, you are going to continue to struggle to speak about Him. And the way you can get that relationship with Jesus is by the Holy Spirit.

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus" *(Acts 4:13).*

"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31).

> *"The difference between us and the Lord is, the Lord came to see us and we made Him pay His tax—we went to se Him and He paid ours. Bless His dear name! See the difference? The sinner doesn't serve God at all. The regenerated man serves God through a sense of duty. The sanctified man serves God through a sense of love. Which crowd are you running with, my friend?"* —Bud Robinson