

Shadrach Youth Ministry

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A Word from Pastor Schultze...

A Point of Reference

"And the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; but sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel." (2 Chronicles 17:3-4)

"And Asa reigned over Judah, and Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord as did David his father." (1 Kings 15:9-10)

Shadracher you can serve the Lord as best as you know how by yourself. But God knows the weakness of human nature and the deceitfulness of the human heart. So as God made David a point of reference for the kings that followed him, so He wants you to have a human being, a spiritual leader, a seasoned man or woman of God as a point of reference.

Many in the days of old said, "I serve the Lord," but God held up David and said, "Are you serving the Lord as David did?"

You are young, you are full of energy, but you are yet inexperienced. Yes, you can look ahead a little ways. But you cannot see as far ahead as a seasoned saint. Psychologists tell us that the human brain is not yet fully developed in youth. That makes it difficult for them to see around corners, to see the potential dangers that lurk in the side alleys of life.

God says not to go on your journey alone. It is too dangerous. Don't rely on your own judgment alone. Find some seasoned warrior—some David—and make him a point of reference. Check in with him or her ever so often, and someday you'll be glad you did.

Report of Shadrach Manual: Dedication by Rebekah Cox

Definition of dedication according to Scott, Foresman dictionary says: "Being set apart for a purpose."

According to our Shadrach manual, dedication is defined in seven characteristics, characteristics that should be a part of every Christian's life.

1. Self-denial – The joy of the Lord is a gift of God to the self-denying and obedient heart. Denying self and not denying self is a matter of life and death; when you deny God's will, you're crucifying Jesus.
2. Holiness – We need to be holy; Jesus is holy and when we walk with Him, we'll be in heaven forever with Him.
3. Sanctification – Sanctification is a state of growing in divine grace, following Jesus the best you know how and the Holy Spirit will do the rest.
4. Humility – Humility is the state of being humble. Jesus was holy enough to hate sin, but He was humble enough

to love a sinner. Young people who live humbly before God are like perfume to all of society.

5. Fasting – It isn't just skipping a meal – its praying and fellowshiping with God. Don't put on a somber and sad face when you fast or blabber on about how you fast.
6. A Man of God – When a young man does not surrender his heart and will to God, he is without preparation for life.
7. Finding and Doing the Will of God – True Christians let God guide their life, and if everyone followed Jesus and walked with Him daily, the Word and the Holy Spirit would direct their lives.

To me, it's not just reading the Bible and saying a prayer to be a dedicated Christian. It's getting up and living in God's Word daily; it's crucifying Self and walking with God and doing His will. We have to wake up and live the life 24/7!

Season Alone with God Report by Morgan Litchfield

What do you know but I began to get really sick Saturday, and couldn't go to our home church on Sunday for the third time in a month (we have been gone a lot lately)! As I began to consider what I would do while staying home from church, I decided to have my Season Alone with God, and it was an encouraging time.

During my time of praise and worshiping God, I began to realize more how great Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross was for me. I would sing through a verse of "Arise, My Soul, Arise," and would then meditate on that section. It was an answer to a prayer that I had prayed to God, and I am thankful for how He answered. I realized how the God of the universe, the Creator of heaven and earth, gave His life for a blackened, filthy, good-for-nothing human thing like me, because He *loved* me (how much He loves us!) and wanted fellowship with me.

As I read through the beginning of Acts, God worked with me on some areas about the believer's lifestyle. During this time and also during the period of reading an inspirational book, I was able to rest and enjoy what I was reading. The latter period mentioned above included some instructions on prayer: "If the day ends in what seems failure, don't fret. Tell Him you're sorry. Even so, don't be discouraged. All discouragement is of the devil." "We don't need to press Him, as if we had to deal with an unwilling God." "We don't need to suggest to Him what to do, for He Himself knows what to do" (Wellman 199-200). (From *Amy Carmichael*, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc.)

At the end of my Season Alone with God, I listened to a message by Keith Daniels directed towards preachers; however, most of it could be also directed towards any soul-winner. He had some very good points; one was on how a person should never give up, even if all hell is against him, causing him to fall on his face, desperate and weeping. I was encouraged to be a greater soul-winner – not only through this message, but also through the verses I reviewed for my memorization time. In Matthew 5, I worked on the verses that talked about being the salt and light of the earth, and how, if the salt (us) has lost its savour, then it is good for nothing except to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men. What challenged me was the questions, "Have I lost my savour?" and, "Is my light shining?" – Because it should be! The verses clearly point that out – "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid," (Matt. 5:14), and "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house" (v. 15).

I am thankful that I got sick, just so that I could spend some much-needed time alone with my Lord! Praise the Lord for what He has done.

Reports due:

2nd Trimester- January 26, 2008

- Book Report (choose from Booklist)
 - Servanthood and Witnessing Report
 - Memorize: Romans 12:9-21
- Shadrach Manual Report #2: Maturity**

Reports from Nathaniel Ramsey...

Witnessing Report

After Shadrach there was a festival in my town. Pastor Robert got the prayer station from Pastor Don and we started witnessing to the crowd. I got much better responses in Fayetteville than Kentucky. Some people didn't want to pray with us, and some just pretended to not hear us, but most of the crowd appreciated the prayers. It was different for me to go witnessing like that, but I found that if I just died out to Self and didn't care what other people thought of me, then I started having a great time.

Servanthood Report

I have lost count of how many hours I have helped my friends pour concrete. I have had a lot of fun helping them. I also enjoy helping our school with technical problems. I have just had fun helping people this summer.

Stories from the Su family:

We spent some time with this family from China during Thanksgiving. They were so hungry for REAL Christianity and for wisdom. They were saved while living in California. Here are a couple stories they told us.

Bro. Su was saved through a dream. In his dream, he heard noises outside as though someone was trying to get in. Frightened, he hid under a table. Then he saw Jesus in a white robe walk into the room with several others behind him. Bro. Su closed his eyes in fear. Jesus came to him and breathed His breath upon him. Then Jesus knocked on him. Bro. Su doesn't know where on his body Jesus knocked, he just knows that He did. Upon awaking, Bro. Su knew that Jesus had touched his heart and he had become a child of God.

The family needed to relocate from California to Ohio. Bro. Su would have to find a home for them in which to live in Cleveland. This was no small task, because, by her own admission, Sister Su was VERY picky about where she lived! Things like which way the kitchen faced were very important to her. While Bro. Su was in Ohio, Sis. Su and their two boys had some prayer about finding a home. Jesus began to give revelation to the boys. One of them saw in a vision a two-story foyer. Someone saw a house with a front porch. Then there was revelation that the color of the house was rather drab. There were other things they saw. They called their father and relayed to them their experience. He wrote each detail down and then called a realtor to line up several houses for him to look at. Bro. Su said it wasn't hard to know which house was the right one. Each detail was just the way it needed to be on one of the homes. Praise the Lord! He knew he could make an offer with confidence even without his wife seeing the home. On top of the revealed features, the home even had a kitchen facing the east as Sis. Su desired, and the home needed very little remodeling to fit their taste!

Bro. Su is a physicist working in the MRI field. He shared how at one time he was stumped with the design of a product. It was a very important project in his career. One night, Jesus came and told him how to make the product marketable. He followed these instructions...and the plan worked...of course!

Sis. Su was a doctor in China. She has now set her career plans aside to home school her boys. She shared how she desires to be trained to minister. As she asked my father about this, he and Robert shared with her the importance of the ministry within her home to her husband and sons. They conveyed the inadequacies of a seminary training to prepare one to effectively minister. She was encouraged to trust God to bring a ministry to her in His time. She was so appreciative. Bro. Su smiled very broadly during this part of the conversation, expressing his appreciation for the wisdom in this area. What a privilege it was to meet this family!

Jesus is Born!!

The long awaited Christ! Yes, thousands of years after the coming of Christ was promised in Genesis, the Christ child was born at last. Certainly a reason to celebrate – a gift that cannot be outdone. Certainly a gift worth waiting for. And, God's people did wait... and wait...and wait. It seemed as though so much was lost because of the lack of the full revelation and manifestation of salvation. Yet, God's timing was perfect. How slowly the machinery of the Kingdom seems to move in light of our short, temporary lives here on earth.

Can we move in and understand the timing of God? Review this Christmas season how even though God's hand seemed to be behind schedule, He brought His Son to earth at just the right time and just the right way. How easily we get restless and get out of God's timing. I know within myself is the strong urge to 'get something going' or to 'just make a decision' – rebelling against the command to 'Wait upon the Lord' and to trust Him to guide my paths. He wants to direct ALL of His children's paths.

G.D. Watson says in Our Own God: "There are glimpses into God's perfections, insight into wonderful truths, quiet unfoldings of daily opportunities, gentle checks of the Holy Spirit upon our decisions or words, sweet and secret inspirations to do certain things, the quiet solving of hard problems.... These we often missed because we took our ear from God's telephone a little too quick, or ran past the angle of vision, or wasted time by asking a question, or got in a feverish state of anxiety, or attempted to take God's work in our own hands.

"Going slow with God is our greatest safety. It is dangerous to live with a thousand live wires around us, against which we may jostle at any time by not keeping calm and thoughtful in our movements. In factories of multiplied and complicated machinery, a man must needs move cautiously.... A wrong step, or a foolish move of the hand, or a frightened, jerky movement may cause instant and horrible death.

"In many respects, we are moving amid just such unseen and complicated machinery, and walking quietly and slowly with God is the only safe way to escape the swift flying bands and pulleys of mighty laws as well as demoniac snares" (116-117).

It is so easy to get in a hurry! It is so easy to think that if we don't do something then all will be lost! God had not forsaken His people of the Old Testament. Yes, the promised Christ was slow in coming (in man's perception), but it was the RIGHT timing for all involved. God has not forsaken you. He has not forgotten or overlooked His plan for your life. Keep in step with His workings...don't be too quick; don't take your ear from God's telephone; don't take His work into your own hands. –Karin

(Watson, G. D. Our Own God. This edition 1999. Shoals: Old Paths Tract Society, 1999.)

"Most people will not do God's will under stress. They will pamper the flesh and bend to the pressures of man. They will choose that which appears reasonable or expedient. Because of this, God's will has seldom been followed continuously and consistently in all the ages. **But all followers of Jesus must press to do not their own will, but God's will at all times**" (255). (Helm, Loren W. A Voice in the Wilderness. Parker: Evangel, 1973)