

What Makes For Sustainable Faith?

Series: Sustainable Faith: The Word

Matthew 28:19-20 NIV (0928)

Steve Wood

September 6, 2009

Matthew 28:19-20 NIV ¹⁹*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* ²⁰*and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

I. What do we mean by sustainable faith?

a. Faith walked out with passion, power, purpose and perseverance over the long haul

Passion: John 2:17 NLT ¹⁷*Then [Jesus'] disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house burns within me."*

Power: John 6:57 NLT ⁵⁷*I live by the power of the living Father who sent me*

Purpose: John 10:10 NLT *My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.*

Perseverance: Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV ²*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.* ³*Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

b. Three critical decisions every believer makes regarding spiritual growth

II. Three key elements to sustainable faith

a. The Word of God

b. Prayer

SØREN KIERKEGAARD *A man prayed, and at first he thought that prayer was talking. But he became more and more quiet until in the end he realized that prayer is listening. ...Prayer is not to hear oneself speak, but to arrive at silence and continue being silent; to wait till one hears God speak. (19th century Danish philosopher and theologian. Kierkegaard strongly criticised what he saw as the empty formalities of the Church of Denmark.)*

c. Life-mentoring

III. Practical tools for reaching our goals

The goal for September-December—*Equipping you to go regularly, on your own, to the Word of God and find guidance, encouragement and support.*

a. Purpose and focus

b. Small group body life

c. How we will know?