

The foundation of a biblically balanced life

1. God's gift of regeneration and a faith that produces surrender

Ephesians 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

²¹ "I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please...

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Luke 14:25-35

2. God's gift of complete forgiveness of all sin, past and future

Hebrews 10:10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...

¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, And upon their mind I will write them," *He then says,*

¹⁷ "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

¹⁸ Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer *any* offering for sin.

¹⁹ Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,

²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

²¹ and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God,

²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, ...(see also Hebrews 4:14-16)

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

3. God's gift of righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Philippians 3:7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,

⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,

The priorities of a biblically balanced life

1. Love God

Matthew 22:36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ And He said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

³⁸ "This is the great and foremost commandment.

2. Love One Another

Matthew 22:39 "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

⁴⁰ "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

3. Live the Mission

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The means of growth in a biblically balanced life

(God produces growth through the intentional use of these "means of grace":)

Personal Means of Grace

1. Prayer and Worship

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always;

¹⁷ pray without ceasing;

¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit;

Romans 8:13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (see also (Galatians 5:16-17; Matthew 6:5-15)

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

2. Bible meditation and application

(How to apply the Bible: Hear, read, study, memorize, meditate and apply)

1 Thessalonians 2:13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

¹⁷ that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Psalms 119:11 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Thy word.

¹⁰ With all my heart I have sought Thee; Do not let me wander from Thy commandments.

¹¹ Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee.

3. Fasting and solitude

Matthew 6:16 "And whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites *do*, for they neglect their appearance in order to be seen fasting by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

¹⁷ "But you, when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face

¹⁸ so that you may not be seen fasting by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Luke 6:12 And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

¹³ And when day came, He called His disciples to Him; and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:

4. Stewardship and simplicity

Matthew 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

²⁰ "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

²¹ for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Luke 14:33 "So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.

⁷ For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

⁸ And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

⁹ But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

¹¹ But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

Relational Means of Grace

1. Marriage and family

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

²⁶ that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

Ephesians 6:4 And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

⁵ "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

⁶ "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart;

⁷ and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

2. Friendships

Acts 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

⁴² And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³ And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common;

⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

⁴⁶ And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

3. Partnerships

2 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,

² to Timothy, my beloved son:

2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

² And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Mark 6:7 And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs;

4. Small groups

Acts 2:46 And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

Ephesians 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.

¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, *even* Christ,

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Hebrews 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

5. Ministry teams

Acts 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*.

² And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.

³ "But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.

⁴ "But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

Acts 13:1 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was *there*, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

² And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

³ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

6. International missions and ministry

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Philippians 4:14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share *with me* in my affliction.

¹⁵ And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone;

¹⁶ for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs.

¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

¹⁸ But I have received everything in full, and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus

Hebrews 13:1 Let love of the brethren continue.

² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

³ Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. (see also Matthew 25:31-46)

7. Personal outreach

Acts 1:8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 8:1 And Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

² And *some* devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him.

³ But Saul *began* ravaging the church, entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

⁴ Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

Matthew 10:32 "Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

³³ "But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

8. Team outreach

see Acts 2:1-12

Acts 2:46 And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty *again*? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ "Nor do *men* light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house.

¹⁶ "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Providential Means of Grace

1. Temptation

James 1:2. Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials (*or temptations*),

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Persecution

1 Peter 1:5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

⁷ that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 3:10 that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

3. Adversity

Romans 5:1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

³ And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

⁴ and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

⁵ and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Hebrews 12:6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives."

⁷ It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?

⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

⁹ Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us* for *our* good, that we may share His holiness.

¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

4. Every other circumstance, good or bad

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

All Scripture is from the NASV



8605 Gulf Drive
Holmes Beach, FL 34217
941-778-0719
online: CrossPointeFellowship.com
office email: info@mycpf.org

Ed Moss, pastor
(cell) 219-9211
ed@mycpf.org