

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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The Fundamentals

Dear Friend,

As a teacher, I am constantly looking for real life examples to use in an effort to better explain the revelation found in the Word of God. It is much easier relating to things that people are familiar with instead of trying to carve out brand new paths of understanding every time.

Having played organized football during my growing up years enables me to draw from my own experiences as the framework for this analogy. One thing I can say with a certainty, whether it be the Super Bowl or the pee wee team playing down at your local grade school, what will always be the same are the fundamentals of the game. No matter the opposition, the weather conditions or the importance of a specific game, the fundamentals are always the same.

Every player begins their introduction to the game by learning Rule #1; The coach is in charge. There is only one head coach and he is the “mastermind” whose job it is to oversee and set the course for the team. Both teams have 11 players on the field, each one charged with fulfilling the unique role required for their particular position. It is the coach’s job to set strategy, call plays and evaluate the progress of the team. It is also the coach that makes the final decision about who plays at each position. Some positions require a higher level of ability in a specific area such as catching or throwing or kicking. No matter what position a person fills they need to possess the skill set best suited for their position, along with the willingness to be a “team player”, and it is the coach who makes the final decision if a player has it or not. So, just because a person wants to be in a certain position does not mean they have the skill set or the attitude necessary to fill that position. But, when the coach discovers a player whose skills match a specific position with the right attitude, who executes the fundamentals of the game, he has found a perfect fit.

What is so interesting about games like football is how you can have 11 people on the field, all fulfilling their unique position, all having varying skill sets, and yet together they are united in accomplishing one goal. Even though only one person carries the ball into the end zone and scores, all 11 players must fulfill their unique roles to make that touchdown possible. The one who scored might receive all the acclaim for making a touchdown, but it’s the entire team working together harmoniously that scored. All 11 players, each fulfilling the responsibility of their individual position, carefully executing the fundamentals of the game, worked as one unit to score a touchdown.

Now, let's begin to focus more on the point of this letter. People might think that it is always the team with the most talented players that wins the game. Obviously, talent does help. Yet, talent and ability alone will not produce a winning team. Talent and ability can only go so far. The right attitude is essential. But, what really makes the difference at the end of the game is, which team has most flawlessly **executed the fundamentals of the game the best**. You see, the fundamentals of the game never change. The fundamentals of the game are the same for every player, every team, every where. No one person or team is exempt from knowing and executing the fundamentals of the game if they want to succeed. That's why, every year, like clock work, the fundamentals of the game are drilled into every player that puts on a uniform. Usually, it is in the hot summer sun of July when teams begin to practice twice a day in preparation for the upcoming season. Can you guess what every team begins with? That's right, grade school, high school or whatever, they begin with the fundamentals: blocking and tackling and yes, endurance training. No matter if the game is being played on the national stage or in a high school stadium on Friday night, the team that best executes the fundamentals of the game will generally come out victorious. Sure, there may be an exception that pops up from time to time, but generally speaking, it is the team which consistently performs fundamentally sound plays that wins games.

What I teach and what I believe is perfectly exemplified in this analogy. There is one Head, or if you will allow me, Coach, at the top, Jesus, who is orchestrating the movements of this "many member team", according to the plan set forth by the Father, the Owner. The Holy Spirit has been tasked, for the sake of this analogy, like a "team trainer" training and developing each "team" member, with the ultimate goal of fulfilling the plan of God in the earth. But He can only do His job when we empower Him. We must initiate His ministry. This letter will explain how we empower the Holy Ghost to become our personal trainer for the purpose of fulfilling our unique position in the body of Christ and ultimately fit into the overall plan of God in the earth.

Clearly, no single member of the body of Christ should ever want to try and devise their own plan independent of the one set forth by Jesus. That would be like one of the 11 players attempting to devise his own unique play independent of the play called by the coach and expecting the coach to bless his independent efforts. That will not work. But, many people in the body of Christ do just that. "Here is my plan, Lord, please bless it." Generally, these are people who see that they have a skill, like preaching or teaching, but have no understanding of "team" or "family" and, most importantly, have no understanding of the "fundamentals". They just see their ability and decide they are going to do their own thing. That is not how this works. What I teach is the paramount importance of every believer doing the "fundamentals", which will in turn, empower the Holy Ghost to become our "Personal Trainer" resulting in our identifying, qualifying for, and fulfilling our unique place in the body of Christ. That will produce results every time. Debbie and I have witnessed this first hand in our own lives.

I don't think I can stress this point enough, just as sure as the sun rises every day in the east and sets in the west the "fundamentals" will never, ever change. No matter how long we walk on this earth there will always be a need to execute the "fundamentals" in our daily life. Just when we think we have progressed beyond doing the "fundamentals" the Holy Ghost will be right there showing us exactly where we need to spend time.

What are the “fundamentals” that I am referring to? Please keep in mind, using the word “fundamentals” is my choice. “Fundamentals”, as I am referring to them, are the tools we have access to as born again, Spirit filled, believers which, when acted upon, produce edification, mortification and transformation. In other words, these are the things that we can do to affect change in the part of us with which God fellowships. This will not be an exhaustive list due to space and time limitations. But, I will briefly touch on what I believe to be the “key” “fundamentals”. First and foremost, we must never get away from the importance of praying in tongues. I am confident in saying that for most people who have heard about the benefits of praying in tongues, many have actually convinced themselves that they are praying in tongues far more than what they actually pray. If you doubt this, get a piece of paper and write down how much time you pray each day for a week. Look at a clock and write down the time you start and the time you stop. For many, I believe the actual amount of time will be shocking. Praying in Other Tongues is a “fundamental” requirement for each one of us to truly fill our role in the body of Christ. That is **not to say** that choosing **not** to do any of these “fundamentals” will keep you out of heaven. That is not the case. This is strictly speaking of our success in fulfilling our unique position in the body of Christ. Also, please keep in mind, as with any of the “fundamentals”, it isn’t the incremental moments spent praying in tongues that God fellowships with. No, it is the “change” that is produced with which He fellowships.

A second “fundamental” we must never get away from is meditating and assimilating the Word of God. For most of us, we know that this means taking the Word of God and reading it over and over and over and over until the Word of God is inside of us in abundance. Then, we are equipped for day and night time meditation of His Word. What will begin happening, particularly when we pray in tongues, the Holy Ghost will begin to unlock the mysteries of God’s Word to our understanding. As those revelations unfold, the faith necessary to walk in those revelations will begin to build inside of us. This is how we arm ourselves with the faith necessary to fulfill our position in His Body.

Another “fundamental” is the confession of God’s Word. This seems to be something that most Christians struggle with and yet the potential that can be realized is limitless. I have found for myself that even when I begin to make these “Word” based confessions they sound hollow and empty at first, but over time develop into life filled words. A friend of mine was instructed by the Lord to begin praying for two people whom he felt had wronged him. His instruction was to pray for these two people every time he thought of them. Have you ever tried not to think of something or some one? Invariably, that is exactly what you find yourself thinking about. So, when he thought of them he said, “Okay, Lord bless them, and you know I don’t mean it.” That went on for a few days. Now, here is the power of the spoken word. Even though my friend had absolutely no desire for God to actually bless these two people when he began, in just a short time his heart began to turn and line up with the words of his mouth. At the beginning, would you say his words were hollow and empty? I believe if asked he would say, “yes”. But, the power that is in the spoken Word began to turn his heart until his heart lined up with the heart of God. Go ahead and begin speaking God’s word

even if it feels like you are lying. You are not lying. You are simply agreeing with what God says about you.

Yet, another “fundamental” that many people would like to ignore is fasting. I’m not going to expound on all the many facets of fasting here, other than to point out two things that Jesus said in regard to fasting. (Mt 6:16 and Mt 17:20a; 21)

“Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.”

“And Jesus said unto them, ‘Because of your unbelief...’”

“Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”

Always remember: Jesus said, “**when** you fast” not “**if** you fast”, and prayer and fasting were prescribed by Jesus to deal with the most subtle form of unbelief. In other words, Jesus was not telling the disciples that this “kind” was a devil they had never seen before that was stronger than the rest. No this “kind” was speaking of the “kind” of unbelief that was so subtle that the disciples had no idea it was even present in them. Prayer and fasting will deal with this subtle kind of unbelief and uproot it once and for all. A common question is always, “Do we have to fast?” The best answer to this question is no, you don’t have to fast, or do any of the “fundamentals” for that matter. No, you **get** to do these things. You **don’t have** to, you **get** to.

Another “fundamental” is private worship. I have an entire blog dedicated to the subject of private worship. For this lesson I will simply say, private worship is when you get alone and begin to tell Jesus how much you love Him. Do this over and over, keeping all your attention focused on Him. At times, if your mind takes off down the block, go get it and tell it to focus on Jesus. How long? There is no formula for this. Do as much as you can and learn to make it a lifestyle. In doing so, you will be developing the love that was born in you in your reborn human spirit, the same love that moved Jesus when He “healed them all.” See my blog for further instruction in this area.

www.privateworship.blogspot.com

For the last of the “fundamentals”, I am going to group together “waiting on the Lord” and “listening”. When many people are introduced to this teaching their first dilemma is generally the same, “I can’t hear God”. I refer anyone struggling with this to a series taught by Dave Roberson entitled, “Distinguishing God’s Voice”. You can go to daveroberson.org and listen for free to these messages. I would encourage you to do this until you hear and know God’s voice for yourself. Then, after you know His voice, it is important to take time to hear what He wants to say to you. I have found that God doesn’t try to compete with all the other “noise” with which we spend our time listening. If we want to hear Him, we have to give Him a space to speak. Does that mean every time you decide to stop and listen He is going to speak to you? No. What it does mean is that you are giving Him the opportunity in the event He wants to share something with you to hear Him. Once you do hear Him get ready because most likely He has wanted

your attention for some time. Again, like all the other “fundamentals” there is much more to say on this subject.

So, let’s say a person has purposed in their heart to “do” the “fundamentals”, does this mean they will never make a mistake? No, we are all still imperfect people who make mistakes. But, for a person who has established themselves in a lifestyle of doing the “fundamentals” they can know that even if they head in the wrong direction, innocently, it is doing the “fundamentals” that will bring them back on course. If you will recall, last year I taught several messages throughout the year using a rope as a prop to explain our progress in fulfilling the plan of God for our lives. Throughout the year, as I continued to use that rope analogy, I could see the message becoming richer. To quickly summarize the message, the rope represented the plan of God that unfolded before us the instant we were born again. Along that rope I tied red pieces of cloth representing specific, “Words” from God that we either heard for ourselves or were given to us by others. I emphasized the fact that those “Words” might only happen a few times over the course of a person’s life. Those Words help to set our course, to “war a good warfare” (1 Timothy 1:18), and they help us to stay focused during difficult times. What I found to be such an important part of this “rope analogy” was this, even though a path unfolds in front of every person who makes Jesus Christ the Lord of their life, that absolutely does not mean that every born again person will walk on that path. In other words, walking on that path is a choice we must make and the choice is whether or not we are going submit to the “Trainer”, the Holy Ghost, through doing the “fundamentals”. As we do the “fundamentals” a change takes place inside of us. Call that change “maturing” call it “growing up spiritually” it really doesn’t matter what you call it, a change is happening. Paul says it like this (2 Cor 3:18),

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

That sounds pretty good, “from glory to glory”. In other words, a progression is taking place. Paul also talked about a progression (Romans 12:2),

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

What I believe this is pointing to is a development in which we start at one place when we are born again and through doing the “fundamentals” we progress along the path of spiritual development and **simultaneously** into the perfect will of God.

What happens when we find ourselves at a place where we **must** make a decision and we ask God and hear absolutely nothing? Have you ever been there before? What do you do? Some might say, “Wait”. But, what if waiting is **not** an option? The situation demands that you make a decision and make it now. The pressure is on. You strain with everything inside you to listen, because now more than ever YOU MUST HEAR SOMETHING, but you hear nothing. What do you do? Here is the answer; you follow the leadership that comes by the Holy Ghost through your reborn human spirit. We call

that the “red” light and the “green” light. When all else seems to fail and you strain to hear but you hear nothing, we always have the leadership of the Holy Ghost leading us into “peace”, “green light”, and away from danger, “red light”. So, stop worrying! God is bigger than any mistake you may make. Just keep doing the “fundamentals”. Going back to the “rope analogy” any time a person began to venture off course I would note the “red light” was going off and they needed to follow the “peace”, “green light” in order to get back on course. “Words” help set our course and our daily times of listening help keep us on that course.

So, let’s say we hear a “Word” from God that sets our course. We head out in that direction and we establish a lifestyle of empowering the Holy Ghost to be our “Personal Trainer” by consistently doing the “fundamentals”. Rest assured that times of decision will come. Because you are born again and filled with the Holy Ghost and you are doing the “fundamentals” you are equipped to make “good” decisions. Don’t be afraid to make them. Stop being afraid that you are going to make mistakes, so much so, that you never step out and do anything for God. Keep in mind, when the children of Israel finally reached that moment where it was time to cross the Jordan, God did not stick their feet in the water for them. He led them up to the point of decision. Notice, they were exactly where they were supposed to be at just the right moment. Then, it was time to make the step. Warning! Don’t be presumptuous. In other words, don’t try to convince yourself that you are farther along the path than you really are. If you are new to this message then relax and focus on implementing all the “fundamentals” in your daily life. You are probably not yet standing at the edge of the Jordan prepared for the step of faith into your destiny. Do the “fundamentals” and watch the progress begin to work in your life. Then, when you have been doing the “fundamentals” for years and seeing the steady progression in your life expect that at some point you too will face your Jordan. When you reach it, don’t cower back in fear because it will always stand between you and your promised land until you step out in faith and cross over.

Keep in mind, it is the gradual progress that you are wanting. This is not a “shooting star” kind of message. This is a message of gradual growth and development where you see a little bit here and a little bit there, instead of a huge “growth” spurt where you think God is telling you to go to the middle east tomorrow, but this is the first time you ever heard anything like that and you have only been doing the “fundamentals” for 6 months. Relax, I can tell you with 99.9% certainty, that’s not God. Just keep praying. But, when you have become a doer of the Word and not a hearer only you may find you have progressed along the path to the place God can give you another one of those “Words”. Remember, He gave it to you because of where you have progressed to and not anyone else. If you’re expecting everyone around you to cheer, you might be surprised. He said it to you, not them. Even when you have the “Word”, be patient. Don’t just instantly jump. See how this “Word” lines up with everything else God has been saying to you, and your spouse. Most likely you and your spouse will receive this “Word” as more of a confirmation than anything else. Don’t be surprised if you are both saying, “Yes, we knew this was coming”. Even then, you must take the step and it will require faith. Know that this step will affect all the other steps you are to make in the future. Again, God will keep bringing you around to that one step until you take it.

Everything else along that path will just have to wait until you decide to step. Once you do, a new life awaits you.

I hope this letter is a blessing to you. Always remember the “fundamentals” and that the key to success is continuing to **do** the “fundamentals”. So, when you feel you have missed God, do the “fundamentals”. If you stepped out prematurely and everything falls apart, do the “fundamentals”. If you can’t hear God, do the “fundamentals”. No matter what the situation, no matter how strong the pressure is against you, no matter what you are faced with, just do the “fundamentals” because you are empowering the Holy Ghost to take you by the hand and put you right back into the perfect plan of God for your life. As long as you are doing the “fundamentals”, the Holy Ghost is directing you whether you realize it or not. Praise God!

After finishing the teaching letter I saw a short vision that I want to share with you.

This vision will help you to see why it is so important to continue to do the “fundamentals”.

I saw a person, who was doing everything he could to hear the voice of God. On one shoulder I saw a little demon screaming hurry, hurry, hurry, (in other words, you are late, you are behind, you have got to move out and catch up)

On the other shoulder I saw another demon screaming slow down, slow down, slow down (in other words, just take your time, you always have tomorrow, you have plenty of time)

We are the ones in the middle being bombarded by both demons and trying with everything we have to hear God.

~Grace be with you

Mark Jenkins

The messages with the “rope analogy” are listed below and can be found at www.markjenkinsministries.org/index.php/media-folder/messages :

Know His Ways
Recalculating
The Third Cord