

7 Helps for the HUNGRY SOUL

The Mechanics of Faith



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INTRODUCTION

You've got to master this before you can move on to this! Sound familiar? Maybe you heard it as a student, as an athlete, or as a trainee on the job. Regardless the subject matter, everything in life has fundamental principles. This is especially true when it comes to our Christian faith and practice. I call these "the mechanics of faith".

This short study has been written as a handy reminder of those vital principles that are necessary for Christian service. Before you can even apply these principles you must first surrender your life to Jesus Christ as Lord. If you have not already, refer to the Mechanics of Salvation on page 19. Pray the Prayer of Salvation and declare Jesus your Savior and Lord. Now you're ready to begin.

We will explore and apply 7 HELPS FOR THE HUNGRY SOUL. Each of these helps will build upon the previous one. AT NO TIME can any of these prosper in the life of the believer without the previous help as its foundation. At the same time, each principle positions us to accomplish the next.

Let me encourage you to methodically take inventory of your spiritual life as you work your way through these pages. Take time to apply each principle, and to be honest about where you're coming up short. These 7 Helps will, in essence, be the mechanics of your faith.



He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall
abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalm 91:1

This is where it all begins! Not a religious experience, but a RELATIONSHIP! Your relationship with Jesus Christ starts here! It's where you will find the very heart of the Christian life. It's the foundation, and the innermost chamber where spiritual growth occurs.

What is this secret place?

It's where you meet and commune with Jesus. It's your prayer life—your intimacy with God. It's where you open your heart to Him and wait to know His. It's the altar where you confess your faults and find forgiveness (1 John 1:9). It's the shelter where you find true peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:6-7). It's the sanctuary where you find joy unspeakable and full of glory (1 Peter 1:8).

What are some benefits of this secret place? You will find:

- **A PLACE OF COMMUNICATION**
- **A PLACE OF COMFORT**
- **A PLACE OF COVERING**



In the New Testament, Jesus explains further why we need this secret place:

⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

⁵I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

⁶If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

⁷If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:4-7

Take a moment and write down the time and place where you meet with God in prayer each day.

If you don't have a regular prayer time, then take this opportunity to commit to develop one. Commit to a specific time each day. Make an appointment with The Lord, and write it below.



Help #2

HEAR HIS VOICE

And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount.

2 Peter 1:18

Now we begin to build upon the foundation of the secret place. Here, we seek to hear His voice, to know the heart and mind of the Lord.

Many ask: “How can I hear His voice?” What’s the secret to hearing the voice of God?

The “secret” is the secret place. Hiding in His secret place sets us up to hear His voice. The key is to stay in the secret place long enough, and be consistent enough, to actually hear. Notice what the Apostle Peter says in 2 Peter 1:18: “...we heard, when we were with him...”

**If you’re not spending time with Him,
don’t expect to hear from Him.**

Now, don’t misunderstand me. I’m not suggesting you’re going to hear the audible voice of God every time you pray. However, The Lord has many tools of communication at His disposal.



First, and foremost, the greatest form of communication God uses to speak to us is through His Holy Word—The Bible. You will find the more time you spend with Him, the more His Word comes alive. Unlike other books, the Bible is the Living Word. You don't just read it once and you're done. God will use the same verses you've read many times before, but in brand new ways.

God can also use situations and circumstances to speak to you. He uses other Christians, your Pastors, your Church. However, whatever God uses will NEVER contradict His Word—The Bible.

God desires to speak to His children and His voice will always agree with the scriptures.

Over the next few days, take time and record any Bible verses that speak to you in a new way.



Help #3

HEED HIS INSTRUCTION

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

Hebrews 2:1

You've been in the secret place, and dedicated yourself to spending time with The Lord. You've been committed until you've heard His voice. The logical next step is to obey that voice.

It has been said there are two types of sin. Those things we COMMIT, and those things we OMIT. I know that my past has been forgiven, and the sins I have committed have been washed away by the blood of Jesus.

I'm more concerned about the things I fail to do than the things I have done. When I hear His voice, I'm responsible to heed it.

It is God's will to direct His people. He wants to lead and guide us. Too often we think we must beg Him for His input. In reality, He loves to communicate with us if we will just listen and obey.



Recall a few ways you have obeyed The Lord's voice.

Are there any areas you need to surrender to His instruction?

Are you struggling with guilt and shame because you've failed to heed God's voice even though you heard it loud and clear? His mercy is never ending. God will never turn you away if you sincerely turn to Him in repentance and obedience.

Confess your sin:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

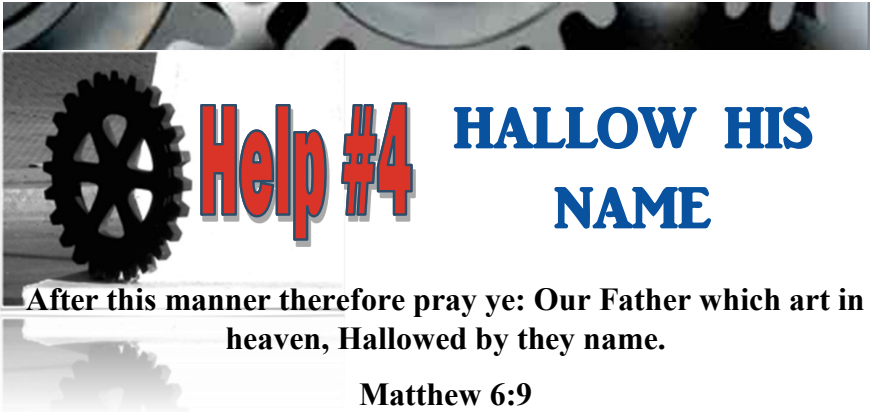
1 John 1:9

Confess your fears and frailties. He already knows your weakness.

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in **weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

Don't rely on yourself! Let Christ perfect His strength in your weakness.



After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed by thy name.

Matthew 6:9

We heed God's voice to accomplish what? This is the central purpose for which we were created—to honor God's name. There's a great deal of talk today about our "purpose" in life. I can simplify all that: Honor the Lord Jesus Christ!

As we come from our secret place with Him, having heard his voice and heeded His instruction, we now live to hallow His great name. This is a matter of WORSHIP!

Worship is so much more than a song, or church service. Worship is the life of the Christian! It's what dictates our desires and conversations. It conquers the idolatry of self and opens us up to the eternal things of God.

The word hallow is a verb, meaning: to acknowledge or to be separate. This should be demonstrated in our everyday life. When others look at your life, they should see something different, something that stands out and is separate from the rest of the world.



How do you actively worship the Lord in your daily life?

Have you separated yourself from the ways of the world? How? What's different about your lifestyle? Your conversations? Your pastimes?

If you feel like you've fallen short in this area, be honest and ask God to reveal to you areas that need improvement.

⁹ But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

I Peter 2:9



Help #5

HERALD HIS COMING

¹Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, ²That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

The Bible tells us the return of Christ is at hand. (I'm not going to take the time defending a Pre-Tribulation Rapture. It's my position, and I believe, the position of the Bible.) No matter what you believe about how or when this will take place, the truth is one day you will meet God face to face.

For a moment, let us consider the possibility that Jesus could return at any time. How should this affect our lives? Should we be concerned? Would anything about how we live change if we truly believed Christ return is imminent?

We are commanded by scripture to work for the Lord until He returns. This work is done with the understanding that He may call us at any moment. If this is true, there's no time to waste! There should be an urgency about the way we share our faith with others.



Not only are we to live like Jesus is soon to return, we are to make sure others know that time is running out as well. We are to sound the alarm and be watchmen on the wall.

How do we do this? By showing our urgency in the way we live.

Show the love of Christ to a lost and hurting world. Tell others Christ died for them, and is coming back for them! Don't be afraid to tell them there is a Heaven, but there is also a hell for those who refuse Christ as Lord.

Have you ever led anyone to Christ? Have you told anyone lately about the love of Jesus Christ?

How can you begin today to live like Jesus is coming soon? What can you do to demonstrate to others Jesus' soon return?



Help #6

HOLD TO HIS PROMISES

**Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;
(for He is faithful that promised;)**

Hebrews 10:23

This is where your time spent with The Lord really begins to manifest itself. It's where God proves Himself over and over again. In truth, the only secure place we have is within the context of God's promises. It's the solid ground upon which we stand when life seems to fall apart.

Every one of us face times of great trial and struggle. Your faith will be tested! It's in those times that we must hold to God's promises.

You can't afford to let go:

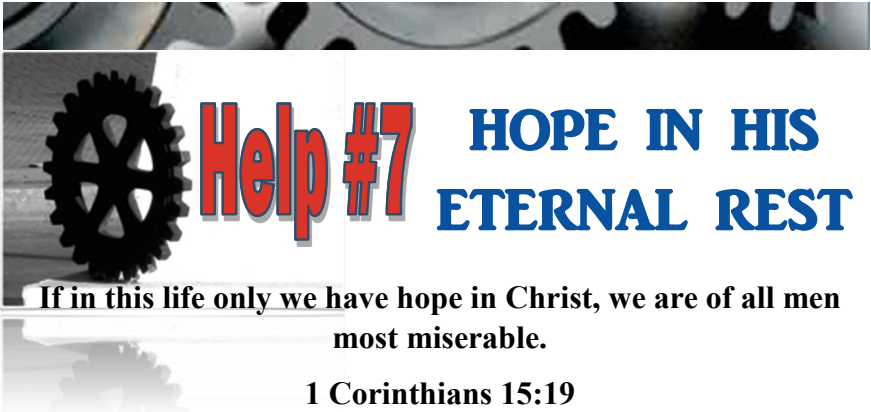
**Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast,
that no man take thy crown.**

Revelation 3:11

You can rest assured God will keep His promises:

**Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;
(for he is faithful that promised;)**

Hebrews 10:23



If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

1 Corinthians 15:19

Lastly, we come to the matter of eternity. We are promised eternal rest with Jesus. It's something we are to hope in and look forward to. Heaven is the great reward of the believer.

When I look around at all that's wrong in this world, I am so thankful that this life isn't all there is. This world is not such a wonderful place: governmental corruption and injustice, horrific acts of violence and terrorism, sickness and disease, natural disasters, and the list goes on and on. Apart from Christ, there's no refuge from all the pain and suffering, from the death and destruction. However in Christ, when everything around you looks hopeless, look up! Jesus made us a great promise:

¹Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:1-3



Are you excited about Heaven? You should be. It's just as real as this world we live in. We get excited about planning upcoming vacations here on earth. We make reservations for accommodations, activities, and sights to see. But have you made preparations to go to Heaven?

For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Colossians 1:5

Is Jesus your Lord and Master? Have you trusted in His finished work upon the cross for your salvation?

Do you long for the day when you finally get to see Jesus Christ?

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Titus 2:13

Do you spend your time and energy making plans for Heaven? Are you laying up treasures in that Heavenly Kingdom? We all fall short and spend so much time on building our own earthly kingdom. What can you do to be more Heavenly minded?

A FINAL WORD

I pray that these simple principles have opened your heart to the fundamentals of faith. They are vitally important to the life of the believer. Periodically, walk through each one as a refresher course. It will keep your spiritual life vibrant and on track.



7 HELPS SUMMARIZED

1. Hide in His secret place.
2. Hear His voice.
3. Heed His instruction.
4. Hallow His name.
5. Herald His coming.
6. Hold to His promises.
7. Hope in His eternal rest.

MECHANICS OF SALVATION:

ADMIT YOU ARE A SINNER

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:23

BELIEVE IN JESUS,

THE ONLY HOPE OF SALVATION

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

CONFESS THAT JESUS IS YOUR LORD

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:9

PRAYER OF SALVATION:

Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner in need of a Savior.

I believe You are the Son of God.

I believe You left your home in Heaven and came to this earth to be the sacrifice for my sins.

I believe you arose victorious over death, hell, & the grave.

I ask You to come into my heart and wash my sins away. I confess that You are Lord of my life.

I may not understand any of it, but from this day forward I belong to you and I'm going to live for You.

In Jesus Name, Amen!

If you prayed this prayer of salvation, please let me know. You can email me at Jeff@brokenpurposes.com.

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