

The Balanced Life Style: How & It Maintained?

Text: II Peter ~~2~~ 1:5-9

Intro:

1. The wonders of the universe →
2. But the most important wonder of it all is the balance of life style necessary to sustain productive human living. → balanced activities plan / life style.
3. Reason many people have problems - low balance
 - 1) Many churches split -
 - 2) " Christmas fall -
 - 3) " " insufficient format -
 - 4) " " emotionally upset -→ Sometimes more than can be seen → p. 158 (Crown John Book)
4. This was the problem with ~~Saul~~ (see book)
 - 1) Saul (see book).
 - 2) Ruth young ruler - Matt. 19:16 ff.
 - 3) Herod - II Tim. 4:19 ff.
 - 4) Hays - Matt. 26:36 ff.
 - 5) Thomas - John 20:20 ff.
5. Bible gives us some clues to the balanced life:
6. Puts it in terms of a paradox → # 2681

I. To Be Balanced With God ~~Too~~ Means To Be
Out Of Step With The World.

1. I Peter 2: 9 → (see notes)

2. Power here of unity → in balance =

1) Tough is only mental → Peace. // 2 you must ↓

2)

II. To Be Balanced Means To Program
your Mind with The Right Language.

1. Computer lang. →

2. Peter gives us the program. II Peter 1: 5:

1) Faith →

2) Goodness →

3) Knowledge →

4) Self-control →

5) Perseverance →

6) Godwin →

7) Brathel Hudner →

8) Lane →

24 185 ff → Peals

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THE BALANCED LIFE STYLE: HOW IS IT MAINTAINED?

You know there are many wonders in our universe today. There is the wonder of distance. In 1963 we send Mariner II on the longest spaceship journey that any spaceship had ever had. It orbited Venus, send back over sixty-five million pieces of information and travelled over fifty-three million nine hundred thousand miles. And it was a great wonder because it was only a speck into space.

There is the wonder of composition. As we look around us at the atmosphere and it looks like to us that it is invisible. But in reality the atmosphere is tangible. In fact, it weighs about fourteen and a half pounds per square inch at sea level. It is transparent except when it is filled with fog and smog and dust. It absorbs heat and cold. It sometimes blazes with heat and it sometimes suffers from deep cold. But it also brings beauty into our lives because without the atmosphere there would be no sound. There would be no music. There would be no sunrise. There would be no sunset. There would be no northern lights that we enjoy so very much over certain areas of the country.

But of all of the wonders that we see in the universe of all of God's two thousand or three thousand galaxies that He has put in space the greatest wonder of it all is balance. And one of the dangers that we have in our country and in our life time is - breaking up that balance.

Over many of our cities there is a smog cloud that hangs because we are out of balance. Many of our lakes have turned yellow and the fish are dying because we are out of balance. Many of our rivers are polluted with litter of various types because we're out of balance. Many of the species of our animals are dying and becoming extinct because we're out of balance.

And when God created this world He created it in a tremendous balance. He created a balance of the gases and the minerals. Particularly, between nitrogen and oxygen. If the nitrogen balance gets out of the way just a little bit we can no longer breathe and we would all die. If the oxygen content would go from twenty percent to as much as thirty-two percent all of the combustible materials in the world would catch on fire and the world would burn up.

He's put a transformation in balance also, because plants give off oxygen and we breathe oxygen. We give off nitrogen and plants breathe nitrogen. And that balance is what keeps us together and keeps us breathing and keeps us living.

But beyond all of this there is a greater balance that God wants us to have in our own lives. The problems that most of us face is when we get out of balance between our heads and our hearts, between our body and our mind and our spirit, between the intellect and the emotions, between all of the forces that make us into the kind of beings that we are.

The greatest discrepancy that many people find themselves dealing with is the discrepancy between the philosophy of life that they have and how they live out that philosophy.

All of us tonight have some kind of a philosophy of life. It comes from our origin of truth. It comes from belief about man. It comes from our belief about God. It comes from our belief about faith and reason. It comes from our belief about eternity. It comes from a belief about the destiny that we have. We develop that philosophy of

life and then we live it out in a certain kind of lifestyle and when that balance is broken up between the philosophy of life and the lifestyle then we find ourselves in sometimes what we call emotional illness. We find ourselves in character disorder. We find ourselves in worry. We find ourselves in anxiety. We find ourselves in depression.

The thing that God wants in our lives, up and above everything else, is a balance between who we are and what we can be and between how He has created us and what He really wants out of our lives.

That's exactly why the Apostle Peter was writing and he was writing to people who were having trouble dealing with balance. Because to be a Christian in that day meant that your property would be confiscated, to be a Christian in that day meant that you might be arrested, to be a Christian in that day meant that you might be deported, to be a Christian in that day might mean that you would be martyred or killed and so he wrote to those people and he said to them, The thing that I want you to see that the first step in this balanced life is found in I Peter 2:9, and he said, I want you to realize that you are a chosen generation, that you are a royal priesthood, that you are a holy nation, that you are a peculiar people and it's up to you now to demonstrate the goodness of Him that's called you out of darkness into His amazing light.

We say to ourselves, It would be fantastic if I could have that kind of balance in my life, if I could see myself as the chosen generation, if I could see myself as the royal priesthood, if I could see myself as a holy nation, if I could see myself as really a peculiar person for God who is a set apart person, who is a called person, who belongs to Him. That sounds fantastic but it's tough. It's hard for me to really make it work in my life. You don't know the problems that I have. Why my doctor has diagnosed me as a neuretic. You know what a neuretic is. That means I'm miserable. That means I behave stupidly and irrationally and I have unresolved conflicts. That means that I have phobias. That means that I have anxiety. That means that I have cases of hysterics. And you talk about me being all of these things, why my doctor has diagnosed me as a psychotic. Look at the terrible condition that I'm in and there is no way that I can overcome that.

But then Jesus Christ breaks in and he says that everyone that believeth on him shall have power to become a son of his and to live in his kingdom and he has given us in that kingdom the power of righteousness, the power of glory, the power of life, the power of a sound mind and he says you can put it all together by my Spirit saith the Lord. Hallelujah.

You say, That sounds fantastic. I'd like to have that in my life. That would be great. But you know, sometimes I feel like the revolutionaries, the two hippie revolutionaries that were planning to overthrow the government. One said to the other, he said, The thing that worries me about this revolution is who's going to give us our unemployment checks when we overthrow the government?

One man came in to me the other day and he said, You know, I'm in such a bad shape I feel like a cross-eyed discus thrower. Well, I'd never heard that before. I said, A crossed-eyed discus thrower, I said, what's that? He said, Well I'll never set any records but I sure do keep the crowd on it's toes.

Then Peter has the audacity to tell the people in that kind of a condition, You are going to be a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people.

The first step in having a balanced lifestyle is that you have to get out of step with the world and into step with God. That there is no way to bring head and heart together and spirit and mind together and body and spirit and mind together and intellect and emotion together until you get totally in step with the Lord.

And what Peter is saying here in verses 3 and 4 of II Peter 1, he said, His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. And the first thing he says is that his divine power has given us everything that we need for life. And in verse 4 he says, Through these he has given us a very great and precious promises. Everything we need for life and very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

So when you get out of step with the world and you get in step with God you have everything you need for your life. You have very great and precious promises. You participate in the divine nature and you escape the corruption that's in the world caused by evil desires. And when that happens in your life then you become truly a peculiar person.

A peculiar person is a person who belongs to God, who has been set apart for God, who has been chosen by God, who has been given a special mission by God and who lives by a special lifestyle through the power of the Holy Spirit.

For instance, love is peculiar in a world of hate. Joy is peculiar in a world of sorrow. Peace is peculiar in a world of unrest. Longsuffering is peculiar in a world of impatience. Gentleness is peculiar in a world of harshness. Goodness is peculiar in a world of sin. Faith is peculiar in a world of doubt. Meekness is peculiar in a world of harshness and temperance is peculiar in a world that is undisciplined and you are a peculiar person because you go the second mile when you have only been compelled to go one mile. You are a peculiar person because you show mercy instead of retaliation. You are a peculiar person because you smile when all of the rest of the world frowns. You are a peculiar person because you believe in a God when one out of five people in the world do not believe that God exist. You are a peculiar person because you go to church on Sunday night when most churches stayed cold and dark on Sunday night. You are a peculiar person because you pay your tithes and you give for the glory of God. You are a peculiar person because you believe that a baby came and that he was a representative of God. You are a peculiar person because you believe that he walked on the face of the earth and he performed miracles and he healed the sick and he proclaimed the kingdom. You are a peculiar person because you believe that he died on a cross. You are a peculiar person because you believe that he resurrected from the dead. You are a peculiar person because you believe that he has gone to the right hand of the Father. You are a peculiar person because you believe that he is coming back again. You are a peculiar person because you believe in a rapture. You are a peculiar person because you believe in a tribulation. You are a peculiar person because you believe in an eternity. You are a peculiar person because you have been called by him and baptized by him and lifted up by him and you belong to another world. Hallelujah be to God. Hallelujah.

And if anybody wants to know who you are you are a peculiar person.

It's strange what peculiar people do. It's weird what happens to them when the Lord really gets in their lives. When Carmelita and I were pastoring our large metropolitan church in Newberry, S. C. (What are you laughing about?) we had a great

ediface. A little two by four frame church down by the railroad tracks. The only place I ever preached where you had pre-train and post-train sermons. The train came through every Sunday at eleven forty-five. I'd preach up until train time and we had the only church in the world that had build in vibration. As the train went by we would just sit there and vibrate, then when it got on by I would finish the sermon. We had a lovely parsonage. A little millhouse up there. It was air conditioned. The air came in under the cracks in the windows and the doors and ceiling. It was a water system. It just came right down through the top of the roof. We had some other important facilities very near by.

You know, we had a great revival in that church and the Lord was blessing in such a great way and I was determined to take that large, metropolitan center of ten thousand people for the Lord. So we decided we'd organize a visitation program and go out. So send I you.

Now I had two ladies in the church, Grannie Jump and Grannie Pershaw. Now they had the victory. They were old-fashioned Pentecostal shouters. Some of you folks have never seen one of those cats. But now they were there. Now some of you know what I'm talking about because some of you used to be that. That's a little in-house. If you saw them on the street on Saturday, I would go downtown sometimes on Saturday and they would see you, you might be a block away and they would holler, Brother Walker, praise the Lord. Isn't God good? You would always act like you didn't know who they were and you just walked right on. You know they were those kind.

So I knew that if I got these two peculiar people into a visitation program I'd have to take them with me. Now that was mistake number one. So we had the big siminar and taught everybody how to do it. Step one, step two, step three. You go in. You tell your story. You leave the literature. Your out. You never stay in anybody's house over twenty minutes long. Any of you remember the door to door thing? Anybody here ever do that? That's right. I don't see, some of you are looking around like this---

So I said, Now Granny Jump and Granny Pershaw I want you to go with me. Now you remember we don't want to put the whole ball of wax on them at one time because all they knew was you got them saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost in one shot and you didn't mess around with it. No need messing around with all the in betweens. They would just pour the whole load. I said, Now these are new people. You go through the steps. I went over it with them step one, step two. Well, we've got it, Pastor. We've got it. No sweat.

So we went up to this apartment complex. I made mistake number two. I said, Now you all go down to that apartment and I'll go to this apartment. I'll meet you right back here in twenty minutes. So I went in and made my visit right on the button. Left the literature, told them the story, shook their hand. I walked out, twenty minutes. Got in the hall and heard the awfulest hollering and yelling and screaming you've ever heard. I went down there and I opened the door and looked in the apartment and they had a couple down on their knees at a sofa. They both had their hands up in the air. Granny Jump was down praying for all she was worth and Granny Pershaw was standing right in the middle of the room with her hands up and I walked up and said, What in the world is going on here? She said, Oh, Pastor, it's wonderful. We've found a backslidded Church of God family, moved in here from Alabama and if you will get out of the way we are going to pray them through.

A peculiar people.

Well, that may not be your style, hopefully, but it starts getting out of step with the world and getting in step with Christ. That's why Peter wrote to those people that were under great duress and said, Here's the way to have the balanced life. You've got to learn what it really means to be the chosen generation. You've got to be a holy nation. A holy nation.

Now that word holy really means balance. It really means complete. It really means in symmetry. If you have everything that you need for life and godliness, if you have the great and precious promises, if you really have what God has for you then you are going to learn what it means to live as a part of a holy family, of a holy group.

When the Bible talks about holiness it talks about consecration. It talks about dedication. It talks about being set apart. It talks about being used in a specialized function. In the book of Exodus it talks about holy ground. It talks about a holy tabernacle. It talks about holy gifts. It talks about holy crowns. It talks about holy anointing and ointment. When you look at Lev. it talks about a holy linen. It talks about a holy house and it talks about a holy tie. When you look at Numbers it talks about a holy congregation. You look at Chron. it talks about holy offerings and a holy tabernacle and a holy ark. Ezra talks about holy seas. The Psalmist talks about holy heaven and a holy hill. Isaiah talks about a holy mountain. Daniel talks about a holy covenant. Matthew talks about holy angels. Luke talks about holy prophets. Paul talks about Holy Scriptures. Peter talks about a holy nation. The Revelator talks about the living creatures that are around the throne of God and all they do all day long and all night is exalt the name of the Lord with Holy, Holy, Holy. And maybe the greatest revival that we need is the kind of revival that we see in the Bible so we could have holy men like Noah that would be holy even though that the world was against them, so that we could have holy men like Daniel who would be holy even though that they were being taken to the lion's den, that we would have holy people like Paul and Silas who could sing in the midst of the jail and it doesn't what the circumstance, it doesn't matter what the situation if your nature has been touched by the divine omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, gracefilled, loving, kindness and the finger of God Almighty who has reached down out of the eternal regions of the battlements of heaven and has come to where you are and has picked you up and made you a member of his kingdom and has torn down the walls of partition and made you an heir of His and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ and has taken away the bondage of fear and has given you the Spirit where you cry, Abba Father, the holiness is yours and the fullness is yours and the truth is yours and it will set you free. Hallelujah.

He starts that whole ball of wax out by saying, I want you to know what it means to live as a holy nation. Now that is not always the easiest thing there is to take care of. That is not always the easiest thing there is to live up to.

That's exactly why Peter goes on with verse 5 and he says that the second thing is that you've got to see when you understand what it means to be a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, then I want you to see that you've got to program your thinking with those holiness principles. He says, Here is what they are, for this very reason make every effort to add to your faith, goodness and to goodness, knowledge and to knowledge, self-control and to self-control, perseverance and to perseverance, godliness and to godliness, brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

They are going to take you out of your imbalance and put you into balance.

But if anyone does not have them he is nearsighted and blind and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

The balanced life is build on these building blocks. It is build on these tools. And you say to yourself, But sometimes I feel like I'm in the rough so badly that I just don't know if I can stand it.

Well, I don't know if you have ever played golf or not. How many golfers are in here? Would you put your hand up? Not very many. Well, you are wise. But sometimes you get in the rough.

I took a few lessons a very seasons ago. It didn't help much but I took a few lessons. I get a great deal out of golf anytime that I play. Because anytime that I play golf it's a combination of backpack trip and a scenic tour of the woods. So I get my money's worth.

But this pro was with me that day and I was in the rough. I said, You know I really, I really hate, what am I going to hit out of here with? I hate to be in the rough. He said, You know I listen to you preach and you preach all those positive principles so why are you uptight about the rough? I said, But look at that mess. He said, Well what's the difference between it and the fairway? I said, About two and a half feet of grass. He said, Well, come on. Let's get acquainted with this grass. He said, Get down on your knees. So we got on our knees and he pulled some grass and he said, Now look. Isn't this nice grass? He said, Chew it. It's tender. It's not going to hurt you. That's nice grass. You've got to say, Grass, I like you grass. Your nice grass. He said, Your problem, Walker, is you've never made friends with the grass. He said, Now take out your five iron. He said, Now isn't that a nice five iron? Well, I'd never formally been introduced to my five iron. So I said, How do you do five iron. I'm delighted to meet you. He said, Now it's build to go through that grass and to hit that ball, and he said, It's no different hitting out of that rough because, he said, Walker the roughs in your head. Now Carmelita had been telling me that for a ling time. He said, Now all you've got to do is just hit that ball like you where on the fairway. He said, Now relax and say to yourself, Nice grass, nice five iron. I'm going to hit a nice shot and it's going to go right on the green. So I said that but I felt, Lousy grass, lousy five iron and I blew the shot.

But he made a statement, The rough is in my head. And most of the rough and the inbalance that we deal with is in our heads. Peter is saying, Here is the way to get out of the rough. Here is the way to get a new kind of lifestyle.

I had a little research here that I want to show you about and I want to ask you about. You ask yourself, Have you really programmed your mind for these principles for the balanced life? Are you still, is your computer programmed the wrong way?

You know, I had a real tough time in my PH.D. work doing computer language. I had to learn to think like that very brilliant computer. In those days I called it stupid. And a computer does two things. It stores instructions and data. Secondly, it makes decisions about that data or it makes arithmetic computations about that data as it's programmed. Now in order for it to make those computations and to give you any decisions about that data you have to write a series of statements in what is know as a program. Now the statements you program into that computer will give it the decision about how it's going to deal with that data.

Now that's where the whole ball of wax is in really living the balanced life. It

is the kind of program we put into our own lifestyle. Now what does it really mean if you program yourself with faith?

Faith. It's a conviction that what Jesus says is true. It's the unquestioning certainty that the way to happiness and peace and strength is to accept him at his word.

Now that's where you start. The rough is in your head so you go through the rough with faith. And that gives you the balance. The certainty to take Jesus at his word.

You add to it virtue or goodness. The two meanings mean one, excellence, the quality that makes one effective in service to God and man. Secondly, it means courage to show whose you are and whom you serve.

The third thing that you program into your head for the balanced life after that you put faith and virtue there is knowledge. Knowledge means a practical knowledge, the ability to decide rightly, to act honorable in dealing with day to day circumstances of life that God's going to give you the power to make the right decisions, that God is going to give you the understanding to make the right decisions, that God's going to give you the insight to make the right decisions. You don't go out of a standpoint or a stance of weakness or indecision but you say my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives within me. I have the knowledge of God in me and I am qualified, authorized and I have the official seal to make decisions in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ as I'm led by him.

Now sometimes he will lead you to make some strange decisions. Sometimes he'll lead you to do some strange things, perhaps. But God will give you the knowledge and you have to believe that. You have to trust in that. You have to understand that.

The next thing he talks about is temperance which was really better translated as self-control. It means literally the ability to take a grip on oneself. It's a Christian that does not emasculate man's passions but it puts those passions under his perfect control so that they become his servants and not his tyrants. So that your passions are your servants. They don't control you.

But half of the world today is being controlled by it's passions. Read the violence. Read of the sexual crimes. Read of all the illicit relationships. Look at the breakup at every stratum of life. It is because we have allowed our passions to rule us. Look at the movie industry. Look at the television industry. It plays on uncontrolled wild passions and mankind finds himself out of balance and on a loose pulley. He doesn't know where to turn or what to do because he has never come under self-control.

You have to learn to keep yourself under control. You know, coming back to golf. That's a great self-control mechanism, I know. I threw a club once. It landed in a tree. I had to climb the tree and get the club and bring it down when I thought nobody was watching. Some guy came up later and said, What were you doing in that tree?

It's kind of like a doctor I know about that plays golf regularly. He's got a terrible temper. He came upto a par three hole. A six iron shot of about a hundred and fifty yards. The first ball went in the water. He had to go over the lake. Second

ball went into the water. Twelve more balls went into the water. He got angry and threw his club in the water. That wasn't enough. He took his bag of clubs and threw them in the water. That wasn't enough. He had a little black four foot caddie that was a favorite of everybody. He grabbed the caddie and threw him in the water. He came up out of the water under a lily pad with his eyes big and brown and he said, Doctor, sir, is you mad?

Isn't that what keeps us all hung up when we don't have it under control? Isn't that the big monster in your life? Self-control.

But then you program your computer. You put the balance in and you program it with perseverance. It's called the queen of virtues by _____ . Patience is not really the word that you want here. It's more like the courageous acceptance of everything life can do to us and the transmuting of even the worst event into another step on the upward way. So I see my problems as opportunities for solution. Thank God for the problem. I'm going to get to solve it. Man it's quite. Thank God for this trouble. I'm going to get to iron it out. Isn't this wonderful? Perseverance.

You don't simply accept and endure. There is always a forward look to it, I'm going to do something about it.

You know, Hebrews 12:2 said that Jesus for joy that was set before him endured the cross. Perservance.

Well, you program in godliness which means the greatest characteriistic you could think about. It's really hard to translate it. It's hard to bring it out of the Greek and really make it work because how do you really define godliness? We talk about a godly person, how do you really define it? I'm wondering if it belongs to God if we could really get a handle on it?

But it really means to always worship God and always serve our fellowman. It means to be in right relationship to both God and man. It's piety in it's most pratical sense. It's practice the presence of the Lord. It's to be able to know that he's with you everywhere you go. It's to be albe to understand that he will never leave us nor forsake us because if we have godliness means He's always there.

Sometimes I get at a low ebb. You know one of the big things about ministry is that many people don't know is that after you have given out and you find yourself given out totally that's where the devil comes to you. That's when the devil really works on you.

Carmelita and I had a group of young people in Arizona one time when we were at the West Coast Bible College. We travelled over eight thousand miles. I hadn't had a paycheck in a couple of weeks. We were raising money to build a school. Times were hard. Times were tough. The school bus driver, my driver, was sick with the flu and he was in the backseat of the car. Carmelita was driving my car. Our son, Paul, we didn't have Mark at that time, was ill with the flu. I was having to drive the bus. Half of the kids were sick and I'm driving between Bligh, Ca. and Indio, Ca., the longest loneliest stretch in the world, the only place that God forgot in all of his creation. Nothing there. There is a stretch of about ninety-six miles of pure desert. It's two o'clock in the morning and I'm driving along and the devil comes up beside me and says, Walker you are an idiot. You are themost stupid person who ever lived. Look at you out here with all of this responsibility, everybody is sick. You don't have any money. This bus is running funny. Your driving a dumb bus. If you had a wreck and

anybody got killed or hurt it would be your fault. You gave up, back two or three years ago, or five years ago it was then, you gave up two hundred and fifty dollars a week with the band. Your band is in New York. You'd be making five hundred dollars a week right now. Look at you. Look how young you are. You could be playing your horn. Look what you are doing. Driving this dumb school bus down this stupid desert. You are an idiot Walker.

About that time one of the kids came running up and said, Come back here quick. Something has happened to Don Rogers. I happened to see his wife when I was in California this last year. He was working and couldn't come up to see me, sent his regard through his wife. He had heart trouble. Went back and there he was, pale, lifeless, everybody frightened. The kids all hysterics. Sitting out there in the middle of the desert and I'm feeling like I'm feeling and the devil is laughing in my ear and saying, See idiot. I told you what was going to happen. Look what you have done.

You know, my first, I didn't know what to do. There I stood. Then something hit me in the heart and said, You dope why don't you pray? He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world. You know, I'm only twenty-three years old at that time and I'm wondering to myself, what have I gotten myself into? He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world, why don't you pray?

So I hollered at the kids and I got them calmed down. I said, Now we are going to pray. Now I don't know what God does in his heaven up there, I don't have all of that knowledge. If I did I would be up there with him. But I do know that God cares about his own. Now I know that. I know that somehow how ever God does it He looked right down there on that California desert and He said, There is a one of my children down whose got big trouble. And He turned that old yellow school bus into a cathedral. We sang a couple of choruses then we laid our hands on that boy and I said, Lord in the name of Jesus Christ raise him up. It was like a bolt of lightning came out of the sky and He illuminated that desert and it became the Garden of Eden and you talk about a camp meeting and you talk about a charismatic revival we had it. Don Rogers stood straight up, put both hands in the air, began to praise and exalt God and we all went out of our minds for joy. Now that's Biblical. That's godliness, the presence of the Lord.

And Christ himself said, I'm going to send you into the world but you are not going by yourself, so send I you, but I am going to go with even to the end of the world. And he meant it and he said it and I believe it. Hallelujah. Amen.

Now how's your programming going? How's it coming? Two more things you've got to plug in. Brotherly affection. Comes from the word Philidephia. It means love of the brethen. It's not the kind of love that gets all hung up just in religious devotion but it's love that cares for the other person. It's the good Samaritan idea.

Then it's love. Love. How do you define it? Love is giving when you get nothing. Love is caring when you get no caring back. Love is empathy. It's respect. It's honesty. It's acceptance. It's positive regard. Love is rather that you be than not be. Love is rather that you succeed than not succeed. Love is sharing in your joy and sharing in your success.

When our boys were small, playing midget football, Paul Dana used to go to a bowl game. Mark did to for that matter. We were at a bowl game one time and Paul had one of his friends with him who didn't play football. He had been ill and couldn't play.

But he was so intrigued and interested in what Paul did he just kind of lived it with Paul until he could get able to play later in his life. I'll never forget this scene. Paul played tight end and he received a pass and he broke into the clear and he ran a sixty yard touchdown. He was running right down the sideline and just two feet beside him, out of bounds, his friend, matched him stride for stride. Went across the goal line, he jumped into the goal line and just threw his arms around him and shared that moment with him.

A simple illustration but that's it. Stride for stride, I'm sharing in your moment of glory. It's not my moment of glory but I'm getting as much out of it as you are. Because I rejoice in what God is doing in your life. I thrill at what He's making out of you. And I share it to the glory of God.

There is no room for the kinds of walls and barricades that we build. There is room for only one thing. That's a bridge. Maybe love is building bridges. I'm sure I can't remember all of it but it was my father's favorite poem.

An old man came at evening tide
To a chasim that was deep and wide
He crossed the chasim in the evening dark
And he stopped and went and build a bridge of bark
A passerby came along and said, Old man
Why do you build such a bridge?
Your life is gone and soon be ore'
You'll never pass this way till yore
Why build you a bridge at evening tide
Across the sullen wide?
Good friend, the old man said, on my journey
I chanced to pass a fair-haired youth
Who himself must come this way
He may not have the experience to cross
Good man, he said, I'm building this bridge for him.

My father used to read that to me at night sometimes, Maybe that's a classic example of what love is all about. You want the balanced lifestyle add to your faith virtue, to your virtue knowledge, to your knowledge temperance, to your temperance perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, to your brotherly kindness love.