

## A Christian Needs a Super Bowl Discipline

Today is Superbowl Sunday. As I thought about "The Big Game," I remembered something that Coach Tom Landry once said. According to the former Dallas Cowboy, "The job of a football coach is to make men do what they don't want to do, in order to achieve what they've always wanted to be."

The truth is most of us want to win. We just don't want it bad enough to suffer. We just don't want it bad enough to do what it takes to win. The winner is one who is disciplined. Without discipline, one cannot excel in any sport.

Likewise, if we want to win in our spiritual lives, we must be willing to incorporate discipline in everything we do. The Apostle Paul talked about this when he wrote: "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training" (1 Corinthians 9:25a). Christians need discipline to remain faithful and receive the crown of life.

- Larry Fitzgerald, Woodlawn church of Christ, Abilene, TX (via *Bulletin Digest*) -

## What You Missed

It is sad but true that a large percentage of the people who come to worship on Sunday morning do not come back on Sunday night or Wednesday night. Also, many wait until after Bible class is over Sunday morning before gathering together. We could talk about the sin of forsaking the assembling of the saints, but I want to focus on what individuals miss when they do not attend these meetings of the church. If you missed these services...

**...you missed the opportunity to sing praises to your Creator.** Do you believe He is worthy of such praise? If so, you missed opportunities to show Him.

**...you missed the opportunity to offer up prayers** to the One who hears and answers prayers.

**...you missed the opportunity to encourage** brothers and sisters in Christ, and to be encouraged by the same.

**...you missed the opportunity to be nourished spiritually.** God's Word was taught, which means spiritual nourishment was provided. It is only God's Word that is able to provide spiritual nourishment (1 Peter 2:2). If you have not been growing spiritually, you are lacking spiritual nutrition. Stop skipping meals.

Let's be sure we don't miss out on any more of these opportunities.

- Tim Wilkes II, Hernando, MS (via *Bulletin Digest*) -

Prayer is the stop that keeps you going.

## News & Notes

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.**

**PANTRY:** Spaghetti and sauce.

**SICK & SHUT-IN: City Hospital:** Beulah Walker (Room 402). **UPMC-Presbyterian, Pittsburgh:** Peggy Linger (suffered a stroke). **At Home:** Lois Hissom, Becky McKitrick, Nancy Cox, Mike West, David Strum (Karen's husband), Jim Hadley, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432. **Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **Ruby Memorial Hospital (ICU), Morgantown, WV:** Sharon Beck. Home address: 807 Camden Ave., Weston, WV 26452.

## Finding Favor

Numerous times in Scripture we read about godly men and women who "find favor" in the sight of God and the people around them. It seems to be a common characteristic.

For example:

**Esther** is described again and again as one who won favor in the sight of the king and his subordinates (2:9, 15, 17; 5:2).

**Joseph** — Genesis 39:21 "the Lord gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison."

**Daniel** — Daniel 1:9 "God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs."

**Samuel** — 1 Samuel 2:26 "the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with man."

**Jesus** — Luke 2:40, 52 "the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him...and Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."

Among the many lessons to be learned, let us focus on just two. What is happening in these examples? What is a common theme? At the very least, we learn:

1. God blesses His people.

2. God's people act in a particular and peculiar way:

- They act so that it is clear to whom they belong (Hebrews 11:14).

- They act in a way that benefits the people around them—they make things better!

If I belong to God, I will act in such a way that improves the lives of those around me. Are you finding favor with God and neighbor?

- Bart Warren, South Green Street church of Christ, Glasgow, KY via *Bulletin Digest* -

**PONDER THIS:** What do we do everyday, but spelled backwards is something we hate? It has 4 letters. *Answer next week.*