

Years ago I met a couple that adopted ten children; most had been in foster care. During one of our conversations, I remember the dad saying something like, "If more Christians would get their nose out of their Bible and actually do what it is telling them to do we wouldn't have all these kids needing a home." I believe he was frustrated with people thinking they are holy by attending Bible studies and church, but not putting into practice what they were learning. Of course it's important to study Scripture, but what good does it do us (and others) if we don't follow its example? What benefit does it have if we don't allow it to change our hearts and lives? Jesus said, "Blessed . . . are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Luke 11:28) And James wrote: "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." (James 1:22) There's no doubt God wants us to put our faith into action.

But it's also easy to get involved with ministries and get too busy. They can take us away from the important things like family or friends. I think it's easy to get in the rut of "doing," even when what we're doing is good. We see a worthwhile event and we get involved. Before long, the commitment overtakes our schedules and we get burned out. Then we step back and withdraw from activities, catch our breath, and then overcommit all over again. Our lives are often crazy, aren't they?

How do we balance not just hearing the Word but also obeying the Word? Jesus is our perfect example. He often fasted and prayed before "big" events. Do we fast and pray before making tough decisions? Jesus got up early to pray. How often do we start our day that way? Jesus often called his closest friends and went away with them, or sometimes he got away alone. He spent time seeking God's will. He asked others to pray. He spent time having communion with a few of his closest friends. How often do we follow Jesus' perfect example?!?

We need to read Scripture and respond to it, and I believe this response can look different for each of us. Regarding orphans, James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress . . ." I don't believe everyone is called to adopt, however, we are all called to obey this verse. How does God call you to obey it? For some it might be to take a meal or babysit for a family that has adopted. Maybe you could pray for or speak encouragement to an adoptive family. Perhaps God wants you to become a foster parent, or you might be called to volunteer at a youth organization for at-risk kids. God loves our obedience and He cares about who you are becoming. It's important that we follow Jesus' example on our journey.

### Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) Are we loving (honoring) God with the way we spend our time? How would adjusting the rhythms of our life help with the time we spend loving others?

What rhythms do you need to begin to work on in your life right now?

What ruts do you need to break free of that are stealing life?

**Additional Verses: *Gospel of Mark.***

***‘church’ video links:***

***This month’s memory verse:*** “Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, TRAIN yourself to be godly.” 1 Timothy 4:7

### REMINDERS:

**6.12 – The Gathering at OUR NEW LOCATION – 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!!!** *Living Right Rhythms.* Have you ever listened to really good music, music that ingrains a rhythm into your head? Ever listened to bad music, loud & out of tune, with no rhythm whatsoever? Which does your life sound more like? God desires that we live in healthy rhythms with Him & others.

**6.19 – 3rd:culture Night!** *1MOSAIC’s ‘For The City’ Summer Carnival.* “Church is NOT a building!” So let’s turn our new parking lot at the 5/6 building into a rockin’ carnival for our city...and...let’s do it ALL summer long! That’s right...June, July & August 3rd:culture will be carnivals! Be sure to watch the web & listen at the gatherings for more details & times.

**6.26 – The Gathering at \*Adrian 5/6 Building\* at 6pm!** *Slow Your Roll.* American’s have moved into a mindset of ‘time is money’ & we are more and more ‘on the go!’ We have put time & our use of it into very unhealthy spots. The Bible has a LOT to say about time, slowing down, & enjoying life!