

"Doctor, quick. Give me a pill to solve my problems."

¿Modern Day Fast-Track Personal and Family Preparedness?

NEW BEGINNINGS

In the past weeks, months and years I have received numerous inquires on *how-to*, *when-to*, *what-to*, *why-to* and *where-to* do things about personal and family preparedness. There is considerable interest, at times even a fervor, surrounding preparedness.

One of the common themes heard is, "I'm not sure where to go from where I am." Through the years most families have done "something" in the area of family preparedness, after all, it is a gospel principle. (see 1-Timothy 5:8 "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.") However, most people seem dissatisfied with their actual level of family and personal preparedness. With limited resources, especially time and money, just where should the emphasis be placed.

I've found that many individuals know that they should be doing more (or perhaps different things), but find the problem seemingly so massive, complex or confusing that they end up doing little or nothing. To them a beginning point is not apparent, or a single course of action is not clear, and so it becomes easier to ignore the problem. In the most extreme cases, some individuals or families even deny the need for any emphasis on preparedness and have found a number of "strong justifications" for their stance.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

The real problem is ignorance (also known as lack of: understanding, truth, wisdom, or light). There is nothing wrong with ignorance. However, there is something very wrong with failing to diligently seek after and gain knowledge when the knowledge gap is discovered.

Where To Begin?

Your search for total preparedness may seem similar to that of your neighbors, but for each it will involve a different course. Each of us have different needs. We all go forward from where we are, and every case is unique. Without question we all have somewhat different resources upon which to draw.

So where do you begin and what course is to be taken?

So often people want me to give them lists:

- Lists of what to buy,
- List of what to do,
- List of what to prepare for.

People want lists, thinking that by simply following the lists, all will be fine. In reality this is a terrible trap.

Having said this, let me give you my list! However, it is not a list of things but rather a *list of principles*.

A Principle Base

A PRINCIPLE is a general truth or law which is the basis to other truths. It is a source or cause from which other things proceed.

In the area of preparedness and survival my goal is to impart basic understanding and knowledge, i.e. PRINCIPLES. The reason for this approach is simple. Even in a very lengthy discussion, article or course there is not sufficient time to cover all the possible combinations of situations and conditions that can arise. The challenge is even more severe when available time and space is very limited, such as here.

Fortunately, principles can be taught in a comparatively short period. When you understand the **principles of how and why things work** (the basic truths that govern your safety and well-being) you will be able to choose the best actions for a given situation. In addition, as circumstances change, you will be able to recognize and understand the changes and adapt accordingly.

TRUTH is things as they really are, as they always have been, and always will be.

I believe that our basic quest is to bring our **KNOWLEDGE** into full line with **TRUTH**.

With the understanding and application of **TRUTHS** (correct principles) comes **KNOWLEDGE**. Knowledge is the key to **FREEDOM**. In this case, freedom from the results of mistaken actions brought about by ignorance and misinformation (like: injury, pain, fear, death, etc.).

The LIST

I call this "list" **THE LAW OF PROVIDENT LIVING**.

The concept of "Provident Living" is a far more powerful term than survival or preparedness. Provident Living is; A life dedicated to making provisions for the future, (tomorrow, next month, next year, next decade, next millennia, next life). Inclusive within it are: Prudent, Preparing, Frugal, Saving, Building, Developing, Growing, Perfecting ...

This is a short list, only four items. These four things are given in order of priority. This order of priority is very critical to recognize and understand as it constitutes part of the basic tenets of this law.

I. Spiritual

II. Attitude

III. Knowledge

IV. Material Things

All four of these items are vitally important for your well-being and growth. You cannot eliminate any one of them, but there is a very important priority order of development and emphases.

Spiritual - There is so much more to you than meets the eye. You (each of you) have incredible depth, capacity and possibilities. Nothing takes precedent over your spiritual well-being. For me this is fulfilled by understanding, internalizing and living the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Attitude - This is the thing that will determine whether you live or die when physical, mental and emotional conditions really get tough. It also determines the quality of your life on a daily basis. It is founded in your emotions, beliefs and dreams.

Knowledge - I define knowledge very simply as *Information Multiplied by Experience*. Merely hearing about something or reading on a subject does not constitute knowledge. Knowledge is an inseparable and automatic part of you that is developed by living something. You have to be careful here because it is very possible to develop bad or harmful knowledge by acquiring incorrect information and associated experience. Knowledge that is founded in something other than truth will get you in trouble (you must be careful about what you are being taught by the traditions of men, or habits, or wives' tales, or marketing hype, etc.).

Material Things - Being number four on this list does not mean that material things are unimportant. On the contrary, material things are very important to us, but their priority in relation to our well-being needs to be correctly understood. If your safety, your concept of well-being, indeed your very worth is based on what you own, what then will be your feelings (attitude?) when they are lost, stolen, or destroyed? ***Anger? Withdrawal? Confusion? Depression? Giving Up? Death?***

Understand that with the correct knowledge of the principles of how and why things work (why they are put together a certain way, and what they are made from), you will automatically create or recreate whatever you need for your physical well-being. By their very nature, material things are actually inseparably connected to the preceding three. ***Correct and abundant material things (wealth) truly flow out of proper spirit, attitude, and knowledge.*** By fully understanding this and recognizing all the possibilities, your attitude will be: "There are always options and I will find them. So long as I have breath I am OK, no matter what."

What Course?

In all thy doings get knowledge. This concept is simply a statement of personal development, enlightenment and growth. Preparedness is not something you develop off to the side of your life, some "thing" that is waiting to be used someday. It is not this anymore than the gospel is just going to church on Sunday and then going about your "business as usual."

Provident living is something practiced every day; it is a way of life.

Jim Phillips, August 23, 1992