

VIBRANT FAITH - FIVE PRINCIPLES for LIVING and PASSING ON FAITH

The Five Principles are integral components of how Christ has called us to live out our faith with scripture providing the foundation for each one.

Principle One: Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships – often in our own homes.

As Jesus tells the man who had been possessed with demons, whom he cured, we too are called to "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." (Mark 5:19)

So, no matter where your home may be or with whom you have a personal, trusted relationship, pray and be in God's Word as you take part in Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions.

Principle Two: The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and ministry of the home.

Even in the early church, the apostles lived out their faith "every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus." (Acts 5:42) Also, Paul "did not shrink from doing anything helpful, proclaiming the message [to you] and teaching [you] publicly and from house to house..." (Acts 20:20)

What does this principle mean for us? How are we to live out our faith daily? The church provides each of us with the Spiritual Grocery Bag filled with God's Word and other simple tools such as hymnals, devotion books, etc., which lead and teach us how to be in Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions no matter where or with whom we live and work.

Principle Three: Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church too.

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Here again we see that faith in Jesus Christ is at the center of our lives, whether at home, at work, the car shop, at weekly worship, etc.. As the above verse from Matthew implies, a family gathered around the dinner table or a couple enjoying the local coffee shop taking part in caring conversations, devotions, service or rituals and traditions can be church. With Jesus Christ as the center of those activities, we are actively living our faith. When the Spiritual Grocery Bag is filled, as mentioned in the thoughts on Principle Two, we have the means to be the church beyond four walls and a steeple. Where will you gather with two or more in Christ's name?

Principle Four: Faith is caught more than it is taught.

Where is faith taught? Anywhere you are. How is faith caught? Simply put, we let others (our children, our friends, our co-workers, etc.) see us reading from Scripture and praying as we are directed in Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

The message, which is taught, becomes interwoven into the fabric of our daily living.

Principle Five: If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults.

Deuteronomy 11:1-3 - "You shall love the Lord your God, therefore, and keep His charge, His decrees, His ordinances, and His commandments always. Remember today that it was not your children (who have not known or seen the discipline of the Lord your God), but it is you who must acknowledge His greatness, His mighty hand and His outstretched arm, His signs and His deeds that He did..."

2 Timothy 1:5 - "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you."

These two readings explain this principle simply and plainly. So, as we live out the first four principles, the fifth principle is inevitable. Through Christ who strengthens and guides us, all generations are equipped to live out the Christian faith in vibrancy each and every day.