



**(SLIDE #1) BUILDING FAITH IN
YOUNG PEOPLE!**

Introduction:

- A. Our Young People Are SO Precious; They Are SO Valuable; We Must Care SO DEEPLY For Them And About Them!
 - 1. Care for their physical health is vital.
 - 2. Care for their spiritual lives, care for their faith is CRITICAL!

- B. We Want Them To Come To TRUE Spiritual Growth!
 - 1. Learning facts is good; it is NOT enough!
 - 2. Life and Christianity are SO MUCH MORE than just facts!
 - 3. It is incorporating God's Truths into their hearts and lives!
 - 4. It is seeing a personal need for God because of personal sin!

- C. We Must Want Them To Attain Faith And Christian Character!
 - 1. Christian character is SO MUCH MORE than just what a person DOES; it is WHO and WHAT he IS! What is he/she in their heart?
 - 2. Just abstaining from some actions does not make one a Christian!
 - 3. We must help them come to true conviction:
 - a. What they need!
 - b. What to do!
 - c. Why to do it!
 - d. What they should be!

I. (Slide #2) How To Build Faith In Young People!

- A. (►) Help Them Understand, Establish, And Set Priorities!
 - 1. Mt. 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

2. Anything that puts God below first place is dangerous and destroys faith instead of builds faith!
3. They may love sports -- sports are not inherently wrong!
 - a. However, if they become THE most important thing; if they hinder spiritual development, interest, and opportunity -- it is wrong!
 - b. If they take precedence over Bible Classes, worship, teen opportunities -- it is wrong!
 - c. Many parents encourage young people to put their FIRST focus upon sports -- parents may push children in sports because of their own love of sports, they may be trying to live vicariously through the children (they wanted to excel personally but did not), or they think they will become the next pro!
4. They may have great talents -- enhancing talents is not inherently wrong!
 - a. HOWEVER, if that become THE most important thing, if it hinders spiritual development or dampen spiritual desires, -- it is wrong!
 - b. If it takes precedence over Bible Classes, worship, and teen opportunities -- it is wrong!

B. (►) Motivate Them To Spiritual Excellence!

1. **(Slide #3)** I Tim. 4:12 “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”
 - a. **(Slide #4) Word:**
 1. Seek to please God with your words! Ps. 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”
 2. Speak in a way that encourages and captivates others, not in a way that angers and drives them away! Eph. 4:15 “speaking the truth in love,”
 3. Avoid unchristian speech!
 - a. Eph. 4:29 “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”
 - b. Col. 3:8,9 “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,”
 - b. **(Slide #5) Conduct:**
 1. Seek to act like one who respects and loves God and has faith in Him! Col. 3:17 “And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
 2. Pr. 3:4 “*And* so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.”
 - c. **(Slide #6) Love:**

1. I Thess. 3:12,13 “And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, ¹³so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”
2. I Cor. 13:4-7 “Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”
3. Love shows respect, concern, and care for others.
4. Love never rejoices in sin!
5. Show love to your parents, siblings, family, and friends!
- d. **(Slide #7) Spirit:**
 1. Let your inner desires show through brightly!
 2. The heart is deeply affected by and in love with God!
 3. The young person’s affections, emotions, and desires are for God!
 4. There is great enthusiasm for God, for life, and for doing what God has asked us to do!
- e. **(Slide #8) Faith:**
 1. Rom. 10:17 “So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 2. Pr. 22:19 “So that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you.”
 3. Help them:
 - a. Grow in faith
 - b. Live in faith
 - c. Live by faith
 4. Let them see reasons to believe; let their faith become solid as a rock!!!
- f. **(Slide #9) Purity:**
 1. Instill the desire for a PURE HEART!
 2. Ps. 51:10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.”
 3. I Thess. 5:23 “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
2. **(Slide #10)** I Tim. 4:13 “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”
 - a. **(Slide #11) Reading:**
 1. Read, study, learn, and know God’s Will!
 2. Learn about God and grow in AWE of and in LOVE with Him!
 3. II Tim. 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
 4. Thrill at the opportunity to learn!
 5. Have more and more desire for the Word or God!

6. II Tim. 3:14, 15 “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
 7. I Pet. 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”
 8. Know Truth -- WHAT they believe and WHY they believe it!
- b. **(Slide #12) Exhortation:**
1. Let the message that you read have great impact upon your heart!
 2. Let it speak to you, teach you God’s ways, and motivate you to love Him and to live for Him!
- c. **(Slide #13) Doctrine:**
1. Know God’s teaching!
 2. Know the Truth and love It! Jn. 17:17 “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”
 3. II Tim. 1:13 “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”
 4. Test everything you hear!
 - a. I Thess. 5:21 “Test all things; hold fast what is good.”
 - b. I Jn. 4:1 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

C. **(Slide #14) Challenge Them To LIVE What They Learn!**

1. Be a reader of the Word -- Be a DOER of the Word!
 - a. Js. 1:22-24 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.”
 - b. It is not enough to know It; LIVE IT!
2. Rely Upon God!
 - a. Focus upon prayer!
 - b. Love to communicate with Him.
 - c. See Him answer prayers; grow in love for Him!

II. **(Slide #15) What Parents Must Do To Help Young People Build Faith!**

A. (►) Be A Christian Yourself!

B. (►) Be An Example Of Faith Yourself!

- C. (▶) Be Consistent!
 1. Don't be hypocritical.
 2. They will see what you DO more than what you SAY!
 3. Let them see the GENUINENESS of your faith!

- D. (▶) Provide Opportunities For Them!
 1. Like our upcoming VBS
 2. Like Lads-2-Leaders -- 2019-2020 Kickoff is this afternoon at 5:15.
 3. Bible Classes

- E. (▶) Be Involved In The Work Of The Church; Help Them Be Involved!
 1. Your actions speak volumes; if you push them but are not involved yourself, you are teaching lessons that will backfire on you!
 2. Show them how important the Church and Its work is to you; instill that same concern in their hearts!

III. (Slide #16) What We All Can Do To Encourage Other Young People!

- A. (▶) Let Them See Our Love For God And His Word!

- B. (▶) Invite Them To Opportunities Like Our Upcoming VBS!
 1. "Discovery: Finding Something Special!"
 2. June 10-13, 2019
 3. 6:30 - 8:00 PM each evening.
 4. We MUST do a better job in reaching out to our friends and families to come to VBS!
 - a. We don't do well in inviting others!
 - b. You never know the impact of one invitation!
 5. Make this THE BEST EFFORT you have ever made to inviting young people and adults to VBS!!!!

- C. Seek Opportunities To Grow Their Faith!