



The year was 1988 and I remember watching Orel Hershiser chase after the record of the most consecutive scoreless innings pitched. The string of scoreless innings continued into the playoffs and every time he threw a pitch the entire sports world sat on the edge of their seats to see how long the streak would continue. Eventually the Dodgers won the World Series and Hershiser was awarded the World Series MVP. He had the opportunity to appear on on the Tonight Show and Johnny Carson asked him, “Orel, I was watching you during the games. Between the innings, you were by yourself and your lips were moving. Who were you talking to?” Hershiser responded, “I wasn’t talking. I was singing.” He continued, “I was singing the Doxology” and on national television he sang these words, “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.” The audience was stunned, and Carson teared up at the song of praise for the Creator.

This moment stood out in the life Hershiser as a result of the “Cornerstone Effect.” Early in his life, he made a commitment to follow the Lord and honor Him in all aspects of life. He was devoted to making sure that Christ remained his top priority.

When a Christian chooses to make the Lord the top priority of life then the “Cornerstone Effect” is set in motion. During New Testament times, the cornerstone was the principal stone placed at the corner of the structure. It was typically the largest, most solid, and most carefully constructed of all the stones in any structure. It was always laid first to ensure that the structure was square and stable. It was the rock upon which the weight of the structure would rest. Jesus is described as the “Chief Cornerstone” for our lives in 1 Peter 2:6 as Peter quotes the prophet Isaiah, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious.”

The “Cornerstone Effect” takes place as a Christian chooses to place Christ as the top priority in all areas of his or her life. It is at this moment that Christ becomes the “Chief Cornerstone” that holds together your life and compels you to live your life in the right direction. There are four areas of life that the “Cornerstone Effect” has maximum impact and these areas are (1) faith, (2) family, (3) finances, and (4) function.

QUESTION

Why is it critical to apply the principle of the “Cornerstone Effect” in your life as a Christian?

Cornerstone Area #1 – Faith

It may sound obvious, but it is critical that every Christian ensure that Jesus Christ is the cornerstone in the area of your faith. Our world has a tendency to downplay the role of Christ in your life. The social norm is to emphasize the importance of social issues or worldly philosophies over a thriving relationship with the Lord. Yet the Lord reminds us that to make the most impact in this world for His glory and to reap the greatest blessings then He must be your top priority. Jesus Christ emphasizes the same principle in this manner,

QUESTION

How can you take practical steps to ensure that Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of your faith?

Matthew 22:36-38 – “Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command.”

Cornerstone Area #2 – Family

The second area where Christ must take top priority as the cornerstone is discovered in the foundation of your family. Every Christian has the privilege and responsibility to teach and model the Word of God to the next generation of believers. The best place to start is within the family as you choose to teach the Word and show how to live the Word in a practical manner. The Lord reminds us of this discipline in Deuteronomy as He declares,

QUESTION

How can you take practical steps to ensure that Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of your family?

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 – 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 write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Cornerstone Area #3 – Finances

The third area of your life where Christ must become the cornerstone is found in the area of your finances. At times, our culture strives to live by the motto “I worked for it, I earned it, it is mine.” The reality is that every blessing we have received from our health to our finances is a gift given by the Lord and we are simply the managers of this gift. Be wise and be alert as you choose to honor the Lord with your finances. Jesus sums up this principle in these words,

QUESTION

How can you take practical steps to ensure that Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of your finances?

Matthew 6:19-21 – “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Cornerstone Area #4 – Function

The last area of the Cornerstone Effect is the most visible. You are called to place Christ as your top priority in the area of function also known as work. Never forget to focus on honoring the Lord in every aspect of your work and you will be a great example of the Gospel. Paul reminds us of this truth as he states,

Colossians 3:23-24 – Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Place Christ as the top priority in your life today and watch the “Cornerstone Effect” change your life in a beautiful way. Live for the Lord, honor the Lord, and bless the Lord today.

Conclusion

The Cornerstone Effect is one of the most critical principles that any individual can apply in life. These principles will radically change your life in a positive, God honoring manner as you begin to more effectively live out your faith in practical ways in this life. Pass on a Christ-centered legacy as you begin applying the Cornerstone Effect in your life by putting these three steps into practice today.

- **Step #1 – Live to Leave a Christ-Centered Legacy**
- **Step #2 – Live like you mean by applying the Cornerstone Effect Principles**
- **Step #3 – Pass on these Principles in practical ways to family and friends.**

QUESTION

How can you take practical steps to ensure that Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of your focus while at work?

QUESTIONS

How can you apply the principles you learned in this study?

How can you pass on these principles on to family and friends?