

# ***Principles of Spiritual Growth:***



## ***The Principle of Preparation***

**December 4, 2011**

**Text: Matthew 11:28-30**

***Applying the Bible to  
Everyday Life***

# Matthew 11:28-30

⌘ **“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”***

# Two weeks ago...

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⌘...I suggested to you  
that one of man's most  
powerful "felt needs"  
is the "need" to be  
*accepted*

# Last week, I...

⌘...suggested that an even more powerful need was the need for our lives to have *meaning* and purpose.

# **This week...**

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**⌘...I would like to suggest that spiritual maturity does not come until we have a heart hunger to be like Christ.**

# **The Principle Of**

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## ***Preparation...***

**...means growing in  
obedience to Christ as you  
yield to his gentle leadership,  
and as you find comfort in  
His sustaining Presence.**

# **The Principle of Preparation...**

**⌘...is *fueled* by  
our *passion* for  
spiritual things...**

# **This passion is...**



**⌘...a progressive desire  
and it develops over a  
period of time**

# **The Principle Of**

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## ***Preparation...***

**...is characterized by three invitations from Christ:**

**“Come to Me”**

**“Take My yoke upon you”**

**“Learn from Me”**

# **The Principle Of**

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# ***Preparation...***

**...Jesus says**  
***“Come to Me”***

# **The Process Of** *Preparation...*

**...begins with an**  
*immediate faith*  
*response.* He is saying,  
**“Come and be with Me”**

***Then we see the...***

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**⌘...scope of His  
invitation. “...*all who  
are weary and heavy  
laden*”**

# ***When we enter...***

**⌘...into this intimate relationship with Christ He promises... *“I will give you rest”*...not inactivity but a time of refreshment and training in preparation for going out into useful service for Christ (our philosophy in getting people plugged into ministry at NDCBF)**

# He is inviting us...

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⌘...to prepare  
ourselves for the  
Christian life by  
*regularly spending  
time in His presence.*

# **The Principle Of**

***Preparation...***

**...Jesus says**

**“Take My yoke  
upon you”**

# *When Jesus...*

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⌘...invites us to...*take His yoke upon us...* He is inviting us to live our lives the way He lived His life.

# He is inviting us...

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⌘...to prepare for  
Christian life by learning  
to *wait on Him and allow  
Him to take the lead in  
the affairs of our lives.*

**The Principle Of**

***Preparation...***

**...Jesus says**

***“Learn from Me”***

# *When Jesus...*

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⌘...invites us to “*Learn from Me*” ...He is inviting us to become *life long learners because life is a process.*

# He is inviting us...

⌘...to prepare ourselves for the Christian life by *allowing our suffering to become opportunities to know Christ better and trust Him more.*