

The QBC Thought of the Day

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .



January 2015 Archive

**Quidnessett Baptist Church
6356 Post Road
North Kingstown, RI 02852**

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 1, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“As a new year dawns, remember the process of becoming more like our Lord Jesus Christ does not happen through extraordinary spiritual experiences. The Fruit of the Spirit is not grown in the life of a Christian seeking ‘mountain-top’ spiritual highs. The Spirit’s work in us occurs in the daily routines of ordinary life where we each live. Learn to see how God uses ordinary things in our daily lives to do the extraordinary work of making us like His Son” (**Romans 8:28-30; Philippians 1:21**).

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 2, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“A Christian who fails to develop deep spiritual relationships with other Christians is setting themselves up for spiritual failure. One of the clearest signs of self-deception is to believe we can live the Christian life by non-involvement or shallow involvement in the lives of other Christians. A Christian who doesn't practice the command, the privilege and the responsibility to be regularly praying, studying, and serving with other Christians is in a dangerous spiritual condition. God never designed the Christian life to be lived in isolation or a private experience. God put us together to give the world a witness of His love through us loving one another in what He calls “His church.” And no one can show and practice love at a distance. It requires a sacrificial commitment of time to be together to pray, share burdens, confess sins, serve the Gospel, and help each other spiritually mature through shared times in the Word” (**Genesis 2:18; John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47**).

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 3, 2015

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“Many Christians struggle for assurance of salvation and often live in an up and down experience of whether or not they are truly a Christian. And this reveals Satan's chief weapon against such timid souls - doubt of one's personal interest in Christ. It is important to distinguish between unwanted doubt and tolerated unbelief. The presence of doubt does not mean the absence of true faith. The Christian who despises his or her doubt while fighting to quiet its screaming attacks with the Word of God and finished work of Christ may be assured of being on safe spiritual ground concerning their soul. It is the professor of faith who never doubts, never struggles with assurance, and allows a lazy life when it comes to obedience to God's Word who is in grave spiritual danger. Doubting believer, if you are waging all-our spiritual warfare against Satan's scheme of doubt by using God's weapons of warfare, be encouraged as this itself is a sign of assurance” (**Ephesians 6:10-18**).

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 4, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“God has granted to each of us a new year which means the close of another year. With the passing of 2014 and the start of 2015, we are closer to the day when we shall be face-to-face with the Lord Jesus. Does this truth grip us with a sense of daily urgency which makes living for eternity and certain judgment clearer and more important than living for the now and temporal enjoyment? Beloved friends, this year, even this day, is what God has given us to live for what matters most. May we not be unwise in how we think, organize our lives, and use the time He has graciously given each of us. Eternity is fast approaching and this life is to be primarily lived preparing for it and our certain day of judgment” **(Ephesians 5:15; 2 Corinthians 5:10)**.

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 5, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“The whole of the Christian life is summed up in the words of the Apostle Paul, *'For me to live is Christ.'* Would that define each of us? Do we greet each day, every day, gripped with a passion, a zeal, and a determination that we will so walk, talk, and direct our actions to reflect a life consumed with Christ and His will?” **(Philippians 1:21)**.

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 6, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“The love the Lord Jesus commands us to practice with one another is not motivated by emotion or feelings. Biblical love is marked by two primary characteristics – choice followed by action. It is the way God loves and He directs us to follow His example. If love is primarily moved by human emotion, our Lord Jesus would not have gone to the cross for us. Yes, true love will contain affection and emotion but true love is not dependent upon those to be practiced. Thank God for our emotions and affections when it comes to the human experience of loving people, but don't wait for emotions and affections to move us to love people. That is more fleeting infatuation and unreliable emotionalism. Let Biblical love, Christ's love, control our daily lives by making choices, followed by actions, to love and watch how God uses such obedience to show those in our lives His love” **(1 Corinthians 13:4-8; 2 Corinthians 5:14)**.

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 7, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“It is true without question, our effectiveness for the Gospel and influence for Jesus will be determined by how much we are becoming like Him. And what does that “becoming like Jesus” look like in our lives? The development of the Fruit of the Spirit – *‘Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control’*. Do not evaluate your spiritual growth and maturity by outward signs of faithfulness to the things of God. Unsaved people read the Bible, attend church, serve the church, even pray, so be careful not to quickly think all things are well spiritually by mere outward conformity to ‘spiritual things.’ True spiritual growth is measured by the development of the inner life in the Fruit of God’s Spirit and impossible to fabricate by human effort” **(Galatians 5:22-23)**.

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 8, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“Christianity never begins with us. There is a proper role of self-examination in healthy Christian living, but the primary focus on Christianity is always on Jesus Christ. We too easily look at ourselves first, Christ second, when it comes to living out our Christianity. Just consider how quickly we make decisions having spiritual impact in our lives and on others without laboring in prayer, without seeking Godly counsel (even if we don't like the counsel), and without unwavering obedience to the scriptures, regardless of our emotions and desires. Think for a moment how many spiritual decisions we may make based primarily on what we want or what we think we need, and rarely put Christ's desires, His Gospel, and the spiritual welfare of others first in our thinking. Christianity is always self-denying, never self-seeking. Before we make any spiritual decision, we should ask this question, ‘What will be the best decision that promotes my testimony of unity among believers, involves me more in the work of the Gospel, and will make me more a source of spiritual encouragement to other believers?’” **(Philippians 2:19-21)**.

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 9, 2015

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“When in a conversation with another Christian and the discussion unfolds about the Christian life, one will quickly determine if they are in the presence of a maturing Christ-centered believer. What will be noticeably absent are two things. First, the use of the pronoun ‘I’. Remarkably absent in a mature Christian is attention to themselves in anything. They will be content to listen; not feeling compelled to speak into everything. The need to talk about themselves and their personal spiritual experiences or preferences will be missing. They simply are satisfied to having listening ears, not ‘wagging tongues.’ Another thing absence in the mature Christian will be a critical spirit about churches or other Christians. They will see the good and grace at work in both and give no thought to the inevitable failings in both. And really, what we are describing as the mature Christian is the person who has come to live all of life under the power and control of the indwelling Christ by His love” **(1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5; GALATIANS 2:20)**.

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 10, 2015

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"As Christians, we have the sure promise of God's comfort in the midst of sorrow, grief and trying circumstances, but our first response in all three should not be a desire for deliverance from the pain or even comfort in the pain. Our initial response should be, 'How may we become more like Jesus in the suffering?' Always remember, God is far more committed to our conformity into the image of our suffering Savior than our comfort in a sinful and decaying world. To that end, suffering is not a punishment from God, it is actually a gift from God to do the glorious work of changing us into humble, loving, image-bearers of Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote, "*For it has been granted (or gifted to you) that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also to suffer for His sake*" (**Psalm 119:69, 71; Philippians 1:29**).

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 11, 2015

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"Real growth as a Christian begins to take root and occur when Christ's desires for us become our desires for us. Jesus prayed, '*Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*' When we desire above all things to 'be with Christ in heaven' in order to 'behold the blazing beauty of His glory', the proper foundations are laid for spiritual growth. All our praying, all our reading of the Bible, all our attendance in church services listening to sermons are means to an end and that end is to '*behold the glory of Christ*'. If we fail to see the Word, prayer, church and everything else in the Christian life as God-given means to 'see' Christ spiritually and be transformed into His image by that 'seeing', we will remain spiritual infants and languish in spiritual inconsistency" (**John 17:24**).

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 12, 2015

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"There is a significant difference between spiritual joy and spiritual emotionalism. The Fruit of the Spirit known as 'joy' goes beyond emotion, but will contain emotion to include sorrow and grief, not always happiness. Joy may actually be defined as a state of spiritual contentment in all circumstances, regardless of personal pain or loss. And where the joy of the Lord is present, the heart will develop the virtues of humility, glad submission, and a non-complaining spirit in all circumstances" (**John 15:11**).

**The QBC Thought of the Day
January 13, 2015**

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"A personal encounter with Jesus Christ leading to an inward transformation by His Gospel will always produce an outward proclamation of the Gospel. A silent and non-witnessing Christian is a contradiction both to the scripture and the reality of true Christian experience" (**Psalm 119:41-46**).

**The QBC Thought of the Day
January 14, 2015**

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"Human love always contains a certain element of being self-serving. Christ's love, the love which Christians are to be controlled by, always contains the elements of self-denying and the giving of one's best for the good of the person loved and is not dependent on the worthiness of the one loved" (**1 JOHN 3:16**).

**The QBC Thought of the Day
January 15, 2015**

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

"What will be present in a healthy Christian is a yearning to experience more and more Christ's love, power and presence. Where this yearning is present, there will also be a deepening desire for prayer both privately and with other Christians. The Christian who is discovering the beauty and glory of Christ in the scriptures will find themselves developing an unquenchable and intensifying thirst to pray. This thirst will not be restricted to private delight and practice. The Christian longing for more and deeper fellowship with Christ, the very purpose of our salvation, will also long to pray with other believers who share this thirst for Christ. Those praying times with other Christians will be just as important as attendance to church on the Lord's Day. And when opportunities to pray with other Christians present themselves, these believers will not find reasons to miss them. Just the opposite will occur; they will ensure no reason prevents them from attending such prayer meetings" (**Psalm 109:4; Acts 2:42**).

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 16, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“One of the surest Biblical evidences of being a Christian filled by the Holy Spirit and walking under His control will be in the use of our tongue. The Holy Spirit-controlled Christian will not speak impulsively when in conversations with others; even in conversations which may be emotionally-charged. In any conversation, Spirit-minded and Spirit-controlled Christians will not be marked by unkind, unloving, and critical words. Instead, they will act with spiritual discipline and restraint, having a tongue speaking words of kindness, love, edification and encouragement to all people. Christians who freely criticize, cut-down, or hurt other people, saved or unsaved, with hurtful and cutting words are far from fellowship with the Lord despite their profession of walking close to Him. It is simply impossible to enjoy the Lord Jesus while allowing an unrestrained, unbridled, and ungodly tongue to produce unedifying speech about or to anyone” **(James 3:1-13)**.

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 17, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“Are you known as a ‘Philemon-type’ Christian? The Apostle Paul said of him, *‘For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother.’* When other Christians see you coming toward them or get an email from you, do they inwardly look at such encounters with dread or delight? Are we known as encouragers or discouragers? Would we be the type of Christian who is more an anchor to the souls of other Christians weighing them down with discouragement and criticalness or an encouraging ‘life-preserver’ type of Christian who always holds them up with words and actions of love and encouragement? It is important we determine which one defines us because the answer either hinders or helps our own personal walk with the Lord Jesus” **(Philemon 7)**.

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 18, 2015

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“A continual danger we must guard against in our spiritual lives is the devilish distraction to spend time and energy, and give our thoughts and attention to secondary things at the expense of the primary thing. When a Christian or church focuses on things other than the centrality of Christ and His gospel, spiritual trouble is imminent. Joy will be lost; peace will be forfeited; disunity is inevitable and their witness to the reality of the love of God in Christ Jesus severely hindered. When the Apostle Paul confronted the church at Corinth in their sins of leadership preference, abuse of spiritual gifts and the Lord's table, he appealed to one thing - *‘And I, when I came to you, brothers and sisters, I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.’* It is here and only here we find joy, purpose, love, and the ability to live all of the Christian life with one another to the glory and honor of God” **(1 Corinthians 1-2:2)**.

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 19, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

"It is the pursuit of knowing God's heart of love that defines the working out of the Christian life. In its basic definition, a Christian is a person who has tasted the goodness and satisfaction found in the love of God in Christ Jesus resulting in an intense thirst for more and more the experience of that love. This thirst always leads to a life of spiritual discipline in the Word, prayer, and obedience pursuing this love" (**Ephesians 3:14-19**).

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 20, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

"Rest more on who God is and not what God does. He has told us '*My ways are not your ways and my thoughts are not your thoughts.*' If we live our Christian life trying to determine what God is doing in our lives, we will struggle to love Him, trust Him, and walk with Him. His ways often seem dark, mysterious, confusing, and contrary to how we think He should work and act. Remember Job, a dear child of God, even accused God of hating him in the midst of his dark times. Rely more upon God's character, not the circumstances He sends into our lives, and we will grow deeper in love with Him, more trusting of Him, and know His peace more and more in the tough times in life" (**Isaiah 55:8**).

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 21, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

"One of the greatest pieces of evidence we are being transformed more and more into the image of our Lord Jesus is our increasing patience with people, especially Christians who are spiritually immature. Few things will affirm more our growth in grace than the exercise of patience with brothers and sisters who are more self-absorbed than Christ-absorbed. And to display this type of growth in us, we must constantly remember how patient God is with each of us when we exhibit a spirit of being more self-absorbed than Christ-absorbed" (**Psalm 86:15**).

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 22, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“The Christian life is a life of progressively knowing God and that goes beyond just facts about God. When the Bible refers to knowing God, the word “know” is synonymous with the word “love.” The true knowledge of God that saves us will always contain an affectionate relationship with Him lived out in daily and intentional obedience to His Word. Do a quick self-evaluation right now. Is this type of knowledge of God growing in our lives? Not knowledge about Him, but knowing Him. To answer this question requires only one thing; a determination of the value we place upon our Lord Jesus. Is He more precious to us today than He was a year, a month, a week, or even yesterday? We will know if He has the rightful places as the chief affection in our hearts and chief pursuit in our lives by these two things. First, our thinking and affections will be more in heaven than upon the things of the earth. The second thing present in those growing in the knowledge and thus love for Christ will be our pursuit of Him in His Word, prayer and with other Christ-centered Christians. This pursuit will be consistent, diligent, faithful and given the best of our time and effort” (**John 17:2-3; 2 Peter 3:18**).

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 23, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“Few things rob our joy and fellowship with the Lord both individually and in our churches quicker than harboring an unforgiving heart toward anyone. It will lead to a critical spirit, bitterness, a focus off eternity and the Gospel, and frankly, will produce what I call “the miserable Christian.” If we allow hurt and sin against us create an unforgiving and unloving spirit, the ultimate ‘spiritual loser’ is ourselves. In the pursuit of being like Jesus, we are never more like Him than when we practice two things: pray more for others than ourselves, and be quick to forgive others who have harmed us” (**Matthew 9:1-3; Ephesians 4:32**).

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 24, 2015

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“We are told in the letter of James to avoid showing ‘partiality’ in our walks of faith and relationships with other believers. Obviously, we will be closer to some believers more than others, but none are to be shunned or avoided. Few things deaden one's fellowship with the Lord and the life of a local church more than the forming of cliques or exclusive ‘spiritual clubs.’ It reveals the practice of selected human love, not the all-encompassing divine love found in our Lord Jesus” (**James 2:1-9**).

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 25, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“No quicker way exists to get out a pit of spiritual discouragement and rekindle first love for Jesus than to stop thinking about and living for oneself. When a Christian is absorbed with their own circumstances, their own desires, and life revolves around them, it is sure recipe for entering a season of having the ‘spiritual blues.’ Jesus said, *‘For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.’* Self-denial, not self-absorption, defines the joyful Christian. Start today modeling Jesus in living for and serving others and watch the dark clouds of spiritual discouragement, depression, and despair begin to lift to be replaced by the spiritual sunshine of Christ’s love and joy” **(Mark 10:43-45)**.

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 26, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“We are told by God *‘not to covet’* and to do so is sin. How do we know if we are guilty of the sin of coveting? Francis Schaeffer wrote, ‘I think there are two practical tests as to when we are coveting against God or man; first I am to love God enough to be contented; second, I am to love men (people) enough not to envy.’ Can we, right now, look to heaven and honestly pray, ‘Lord, I am content in Your sovereign will unfolding in my life in every single area?’ And may we also look to the Searcher of our hearts with confidence that the sin of envy of another person or their situation in life finds no place in our hearts and minds? Discontent and envy are serious sins which will rob us of joy, peace, and the abundant life Jesus came to give us” **(Hebrews 13:5)**.

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 27, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

Ian Hamilton, in his excellent book *The Faith-Shaped Life* wrote, “Even in the model life of faith, we find our Lord Jesus Christ experiencing disappointment, opposition, hardships, and bereavement. Nowhere does God imply that his believing children will be cocooned from the struggles, disappointments, and perplexities of living in a fallen world. On the contrary, in addition to this the Lord tells us that *‘everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution’*. Without this spiritual realism, our lives will become the prisoners of circumstance, rising and falling depending on the kind of circumstances that touch our lives.”

“In the Christian life, nothing more quickly reveals both our understanding of what it means to be a Christian and our maturity as a Christian than our response to suffering whether physical, spiritual, or emotional. If we see beyond the pain in our suffering to the purposes of God in our suffering, and gladly submit to His work through our suffering, spiritual maturity in Christ will define us. Conversely, be more desirous for comfort in our suffering instead of learning through our suffering, the attitudes of discontent and complaining will define us revealing our spiritual infancy in Christ” **(2 Timothy 3:12)**

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 28, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“Jesus said, ‘*By this, all people will know you are my disciples; the love you have for one another.*’ It is love, not in profession, but in practice, that verifies we belong to Christ. A true profession of faith in Christ always produces a life of love for other Christians. It will be a love with these characteristics - ‘*patient, kind, does not envy or boast; is not arrogant or rude; does not insist on its own way; is not irritable or resentful; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*’ And such a life of love is only possible to the person who is under the complete control of Him who is this love - the Lord Jesus” **(John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7).**

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 29, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“If you are facing an intense trial; if you are deep in a trying circumstance; if you are feeling like God is far away and disinterested, even perhaps angry at you, there are three truths to remember which will sustain and keep you in these dark times. First, God controls everything, including what you are going through. Next, God is love and if you are His child, there is no anger, disinterest, or lack of concern for you no matter what you are facing. He is not hurting you in a hateful way. He is purging you in a loving way. Finally, God is with you. He is always present and though you may not sense Him, He will not nor cannot leave you despite your waving emotions. This season of trial is for your good, not your harm, and it will pass making you more like Jesus unto the praise of His glorious grace” **(John 15:1-9; Hebrews 13:5; 1 John 4:7-8).**

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 30, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“The call of God to the Christian is not busyness, but faithfulness. When we see Jesus, the sweetest words we may ever hear will be, ‘*Well done, good and faithful servant.*’ And from those words is what the world needs to see in Christians. The world doesn't need to watch up and down Christians tossed to and fro by circumstance, emotions, and selfish living. What the world needs to see from us is stability, perseverance, and selfless living that displays the selfless and steadfast love of Christ. Oh, how much greater and deeper would our influence in the culture for our Lord Jesus be if we refused to let circumstances, the pull of the flesh, and the allurements of the world produce within us a discontent that leads to a life and witness of spiritual inconsistency and unfaithfulness” **(Romans 5:1-5; 2 Peter 1:3-11).**

The QBC Thought of the Day
January 31, 2015

In our walks with the Lord, let's think on this for a moment. . .

“Imagine if each of us were suddenly removed from our local churches. Would our absence make any difference in our churches in the spreading of the Gospel, in the attendance and quality of her prayer meetings, in the giving of our time and money, and in the practice of love to Christians in her? If we were removed today and not be in attendance in our local churches tomorrow, would it make any difference? Would we be missed because of our spiritual influence in her work and fellowship? We each must decide – are we spectators simply receiving from the church but not giving back to her in sacrificial service? Or are we active servants giving our Lord and His church our best in the use of our time, talent, and treasure? Beloved, there is a Day of Judgment coming and what will be judged is our works and actions, not our intentions” **(Acts 2:42-47; 2 Corinthians 5:10).**