

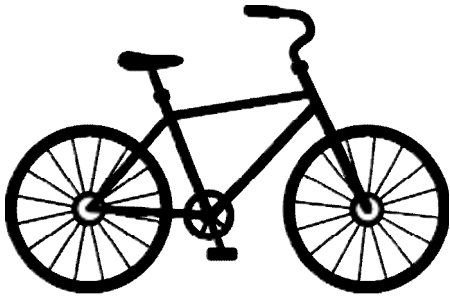


Newsletter

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LESSONS FROM A BICYCLE



Last week I pulled our bicycles out of the shed and put them in the garage. I'm pretty sure there are a number of principles to be learned from these bicycles. One is that you have to prepare. Not much happens in our spiritual lives without preparation. Psalm 63:1 says "O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water." I had to move our bikes from the back of our shed to the front of our garage in order for them to be useable. If they aren't accessible we won't use them. So too with God, if we don't prepare to be in His Word and devote time to worship, we won't do so.

Another life-lesson comes from considering that the tires on our bikes are flat. In order for them to be useful they'll need to be aired up, otherwise they won't work. I think we sometimes have a spiritual flatness as well. It's interesting to note that the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit is often associated with the wind or air. (See for instance John 3:8) Sometimes we need to have our hearts re-inflated by God's Spirit. Ephesians 5:18-20 indicates that we need to be "filled with the Spirit" so that can sing and make melody in our hearts to the Lord and give thanks to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ, His Son.

Then too, there's something to be said for the design of the bicycle. I realize you will be amazed at my astute observation that a bicycle has two tires. I've never tried to ride a unicycle, but it sure looks like something much harder than riding a bike. I wonder how many times we try to move through life by ourselves, pushing harder, doing more, balancing precariously. We need help! We need another. Hebrews 13:5-6 reminds us that Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us so that we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid."

Now, I'm not an avid biking enthusiast and I won't be riding hundreds of miles this summer. But I do look forward to a few miles around our neighborhood. And no matter how many miles or how often I ride I hope I'll not lose sight of these lessons from a bike. What's your bike saying to you?

Looking Up,
Pastor Chuck Circle