

ONE MINUTE MESSAGE

ATTENTION TO DETAIL ... *Matthew 25:23*

John Wooden, former coach of the UCLA Bruins, has more NCAA championships than any other basketball coach in history—10 titles in 12 years. What did he teach to ensure top-level performance?

For one thing, he taught his players how to put on their socks. No kidding. Each season Coach Wooden showed his players how to prevent sock-wrinkles around the little toe and the heel, and how to lace up their shoes with a double-knot. This helped his players avoid blisters. In the closing minutes of a close game, the player without blisters on his feet will perform better. This simple, basic detail contributed to a series of National Championships.

Attention to detail, Wooden says, creates success in basketball, in business and life. His focus on fundamentals—running drills, executing plays—gave his team an edge. He never had to resort to pep talks or tirades. He just helped players excel at the basics; excelling at the basics wins ball games.

Paul said to the Corinthians, *“Hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.”* (1Corinthians 11:2) The basics of spiritual growth are the same for all Christians—for new believers as well as old saints, for mega-church celebrities as well as those who serve in obscurity.

There are no tricks, no shortcuts. The only way to excel in the Christian life is to do the basics: daily prayer, daily Bible study, daily worship, daily service, and daily fellowship. These are the fundamentals of the faith, and we never outgrow our need for them.

Spending time alone in prayer, or memorizing a verse, or visiting a lonely person may sometimes seem as exciting as putting on your socks—but doing it right takes you to the next level of discipleship.

Jesus said, *“You have been faithful in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”*

The Lord is in the details. This week, remember to do the basics; God will reward your faithfulness. • **Steve May**

Project Brasil is a Christian ministry located in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, devoted to bringing the gospel of Christ to poor communities. We offer English courses, computer classes, job training, children’s activities, medical care and spiritual help.

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