

Combat Christian: Day Five

Mission Training: Unit One

Fitness Training 101

Personal Wellness

Have you ever met a new believer who had such energy and exuberance that you would swear they must be plugged into an electrical outlet? Then a few weeks or months down the road you begin to observe the energy begin to fade and their daily life no longer seems to shine as it once did. In the Navy we would say that person is all hawse pipe and no keel or all chrome and no steel.

What if, as a Christian, I spend too much time and energy on my exterior? I am talking about that part of me that I show to the world. Christians are expected to look and act a certain way. Even among ourselves we maintain appearances. It would be very easy for me to put on my Sunday face and appear to be something that I'm not. Armed with everything I have heard at Sunday service, seen on Christian television, and read in Christian books I could venture forth into this world displaying a face that glows in the dark. Now I'm "looking good." I really have it "made in the shade," right?

Key Verse:

"If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth." (I John 1:6 NAS)

How does shade fit into this verse? The darkness mentioned in this verse represents sin. I believe that anything in my life that prevents fellowship with God is sin. Within this definition, sin may not appear as darkness. It might appear as shade or even light. But God is not a half-stepper, **"...God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all." (1 ;John 1:5b NAS)** If I am not walking fully in His light, then I am walking in darkness.

How can I use this in my life each day? Let me try to explain. Flashlights are familiar objects to all of us. They're made up of batteries, a bulb, and a switch. Turn on the switch and light emanates from the bulb. But what happens, if the switch is left on too long? The light grows dim. Why? Some would say that the batteries are weak. I think it is because they are full of darkness. Batteries, contrary to popular belief, are dark absorbers. I am also an absorber. God wants me to be full of light, but I can absorb anything I choose. Now if the battery in my car goes dead, I may be able to start the engine by getting a "jump start" from another battery. But this will be only temporary if my car's charging system is inoperable. Likewise, if I do not make time each day for fellowship with the Lord Jesus, I am depending on a "jump start" instead of plugging into the Source.

So What!

When I became a Christian, I discovered the ministries of the Holy Spirit. First, He came to live inside me (indwelling). Second, I learned that if I asked, He would fill me with His presence (filling). However, here is a key problem. I can't be full of light if I am, already full of shade; **"but if I confess my sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive my sins and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9).** Having been cleansed by God Himself, there is room

to be filled with His light, and I can have fellowship with Him, "**...and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.**" (I John 1:3b) He speaks to my heart through prayer. He feeds me through His Holy Word. If I fellowship with the Television instead of the Master, I have in effect chosen the sun lamp instead of the SON LAMP. The tan may look the same, but we know it was made in the shade.