

October's Theme

The Divine Quest

Today's Lesson:

Practice Makes Perfect

A copy of Rev. Chuck's Power Point notes are available @ www.unityofbakersfield.org

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mo4RqK6WhKw>

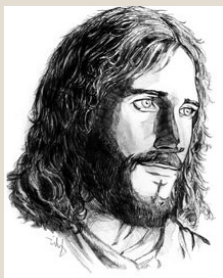
Practice Makes Perfect

Q. Why do we need to continue to practice the spiritual principles? Isn't it enough just to know about them?

A. No.

"Use your gifts faithfully, and they shall be enlarged; practice what you know, and you shall attain to higher knowledge" Matthew Arnold (English Victorian Poet and Critic of Literacy and Society. 1822-1888)

Practice Makes Perfect



The things I have done you will do also and greater will you do. And I will send you the Holy Spirit which will guide and direct you in all things. -Jesus

Practice Makes Perfect

As we continue our divine quest we are often called to lead others in some capacity. This is one of the reasons we practice the spiritual principles we have learned so that we are able to respond when Spirit calls on us.

The responses to the Association of Unity Churches International YouTube Video I played last week asked some very good questions.

Practice Makes Perfect

What is Unity doing on a local, national, and international level? What does it mean to be a leader and what are we leading? What is Unity's leadership role in the world today? Why doesn't Unity say more about the evil wars that ordinary people are opposed to. Why isn't there more denouncing of the injustice created by our leaders in Unity's sermons?

Practice Makes Perfect

The work that needs to be done can only be accomplished through the individual.
No institution, school, college, organization, or movement can transform the world.
The power is not in things made by humankind, but within humankind itself.
God did not say, "I will put my law in the world of things."

Practice Makes Perfect

Since Unity's first published articles and books on the transformation of mind, body, and soul, thousands have followed with their unique perspectives and insights on what we need to do to make our world a better place. It all comes down to some very basic practices:

What peace? Be peace!

What love? Be love!

Practice Makes Perfect

What prosperity? Be prosperous!

What health? Be health!

What friendship? Be a friend!

Whatever it is that you want in your life, you must be it.

We are told that we are beloved of God, but in real life we don't act it. Think about it...

Love God, Love Self, Love Neighbor as Self.

Practice Makes Perfect

People look out into the world and ask, "*Why doesn't God do something about all the wars, poverty, starvation.*"

The answer is: God already has....

Through us: our minds, our hearts, our hands, our souls, our skills, our talents, our ability to think beyond limits and find new and better ways of communicating love, respect, understanding, tolerance, good will.

Practice Makes Perfect

We teach that there is only one presence and one power in the Universe, God the Good!

If we have the same spiritual DNA, then we also have the capacity to exercise that same power of good in our lives.

However, we must commit ourselves to practicing the spiritual principles of empowerment so that Spirit can lead, and our egos must follow.

Practice Makes Perfect

Ego's excuses for not practicing:

That's just the way I am.

I'm too old to change my ways now.

It's not my job.

If I wait long enough someone else will do it.

I've tried this stuff before and it didn't work.

I've got better things to do.

I don't have what it takes.

Practice Makes Perfect

There's a very slippery slope we must watch out for when practicing spiritual principles.

The universal principles are found in all creative energy. That is to say, what works for any spiritually minded person, will also work for the narcissist.

When was the last time you tried to change a narcissist's mind about something, or get them to give of themselves without reward?

Practice Makes Perfect

“God is no respecter of persons, for he causes it to rain on the just and unjust alike.”—Jesus

We all have equal access to the spiritual principles that govern all creative energy. It’s how we choose to use them that makes our world a *“heaven or hell on earth.”*

And the choice begins within our own minds with the thoughts we choose to think and the stories we create to back up those thoughts.

Practice Makes Perfect

It is no secret that the majority of people living on this planet believe in an unsafe world.

That life is not fair. That other people have the power and they are powerless.

That majority, using the law of mind action, contributes to the condition the world, just as we, the Truth students who are in the minority, contribute to the condition of the world. Exp: Kern County

Practice Makes Perfect

Living and practicing spiritual principles is very challenging no matter what path you choose. If you work with the Universe (going to God first), your progress of being *perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect* will be less stressful and more meaningful.

You can’t change the world anymore than you can change your husband, wife, daughter, son, friend, or co-worker – only yourself.

Practice Makes Perfect

Many people end up on a fool's journey when they try to change others to their point of view, in the end all they have is an overwhelming sense of disappointment and despair.

The people that travel the hero's journey know and understand that it's about the change that takes place within them through their trials and tribulations and what they share.

Practice Makes Perfect

The hero realizes that they must make a commitment to knowing what they want and then practicing the principles so they feel empowered and capable of obtaining what they want *-for the good of all concerned.*

Unity is a movement that teaches spiritual transformation through the application and the practice of the spiritual principles that govern the universe and all things in it.

Practice Makes Perfect

As the old adage states: We must be the change we wish to see manifested in the world.

We enter the process by being patient and gentle with ourselves; not trying to be perfect; while maintaining a positive attitude.

Then as we progress we can chart our success through our...

Karma-O-Meter
