



Welcome to Unity's Interactive Worship Service

Today's Topic: Apply Yourself

Power Point notes available at:
www.unityofbakersfield.org

Apply Yourself

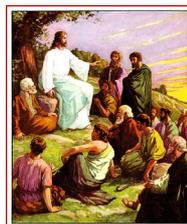
What does the word "apply" mean to you?
Maybe it means one of the following definitions:

1. To attach something to the surface of something: "You must apply the glue to the paper sparingly, or else the paper will wrinkle."
2. To put something to some special use: "She applied all her income to the mortgage."
3. To be pertinent or relevant to someone or something: "This rule applies to everyone; there are no exceptions."

Apply Yourself

4. To request or seek admission, or employment to some organization: "I will apply to college next year."
5. To devote someone or someone's efforts to do something. Used reflexively: "In the summer I relaxed, but in the fall I applied myself to my studies."

Apply Yourself



Towards the end of his ministry
Jesus informed all who were
around him to "apply yourself"
with these words:

"Very truly I tell you, whoever
believes in me will do the works
I have been doing, and they will
do even greater things than
these." (John 14:12)

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The Fillmores believed, as Jesus did, that the spiritual principles he taught were universal and therefore could be applied to any situation, circumstance, or issue in our lives. Based on the spiritual principles taught by Jesus, Unity developed five principle to help truth students apply themselves "to do the works I have been doing, and greater ones than these..." and those five principles are:

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1. There is only one Presence and one Power active as the Universe and in my life. God the Good.
2. Our essence is of God; therefore we are inherently good. This God essence was fully expressed in Jesus, the Christ.
3. We are co-creators with God, creating reality through thoughts held in Mind.

Apply Yourself

4. Through prayer and meditation, we align our heart-mind with God. Denials and affirmations are tools we use.
5. Through thoughts, words, and actions, we live the Truth we know.

However, it's not enough to just know that **God is all good**; that we are made in God's image with the divine spark, the **Christ spirit** in us;...

Apply Yourself

.... that **prayer and mediation** are tools for helping us to become more aware of our divine nature and relationship with God; and that **we create our world** according to the beliefs we hold in consciousness. We must now **apply** the spiritual truths in our lives.

"That's all well and good, Rev. Chuck, but every time I think I'm doing great, something knocks me down again. What can I do?"

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Earlier I gave you several definitions of what it's like to use the word "apply" in our lives. Now I'm going to give you another definition based on five steps to achieving the "greater things" that Jesus told us we could do.

1. To take the **action** we need to take to make our lives better.
2. We can't do it alone, so we create **partnerships**...the first always with God.

Apply Yourself

3. We must have a **purpose** in mind, a goal, a direction.
 4. We do it in **love**.
 5. Allow the child within to keep **yearning** for new and better ways.
- Sounds easy enough. Take action in partnership and purpose, do it with love and a child-like yearning for always finding something new and better.

Apply Yourself

So why is it so hard for many of us to apply the spiritual truths in our lives? Could it be that we see ourselves flawed in some way, shape, or form? After all, even Jesus taught that we could be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect.

"Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect." (Matt 5:48)

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)

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I never stop being amazed at the human condition and what we, as truth students, are faced with as we apply ourselves to living and practicing spiritual principles. Granted, much of what we do is gleaned, learned, and processed through many trials and tribulations, joys and accomplishments.

I remember one time after a Sunday service a visitor in a somewhat sarcastic tone said to me while leaving, "What's it feel like to be so perfect?" "Wow! Where did that come from?," I thought as she walked away.

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Ever have someone say something demeaning and have it stick in your mind? Why is that? Why do we focus only on the negative aspects of what people say instead of the positive attributes we all have? I've learned to take what people say and find something to use as a lesson. Sometimes it takes awhile, but with practice I can usually find something to teach. This is what I found from that statement: **You're allowed to be perfect.**

Apply Yourself

So together repeat after me:

I am allowed to be perfect!

I know, ego is busy flipping through your memory files to prove this statement wrong! Right now several of you have probably brought up a picture in your mind of you not being perfect. Aren't our minds great!

Now, do you want to know the secret for applying the spiritual principle taught by Jesus, that you're allowed to be perfect?

Apply Yourself

Bless every experience, rather than deny it or curse it, and then apply yourself to understanding Jesus's statements of: "Be therefore perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect, for God is no respecter of persons, he causes it to rain on the just and unjust alike."

The next time you're faced with a situation and your ego says, "Well isn't this a perfect mess you got us into." You can honestly say, "Well, yes it is perfect! Because we get to grow from it!"

Apply Yourself

Jesus to the people: Apply yourself to living the truths I have taught and demonstrated so that you too can be blessed as I have been blessed. And always remember to give yourself permission to say over and over again, "I am allowed to be perfect. I am perfect in every way. My life is perfect because my experiences are perfect. Everything I am or ever hope to be is perfect. I am of God and God is perfect, therefore I am perfect."

Apply Yourself

As someone once said, "Self respect, self worth, and self love all start with self." So be the perfect self you can be, be yourself, apply yourself. Be who you were meant to be. And remember:

Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

 Brainy Quotes