**William Hollensed, D.C.**
**CCA President**

# Fishing for a Lifetime

The old Chinese proverb says, *"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for life."* In today's world, we probably need to add *"and teach him to cook so he won't be stuck with just sushi."* You may be wondering what connection there is between this and Christian chiropractic. So let's see if we can apply this to our lives as Christian chiropractors.

It is easy today to find others telling us how we should practice to be successful. For example, one will say volume, another will say cash, another an instrument, the next will sell us the secret of how to get patients from ads, or worse yet, from lawyers. These are all fish that feed us for today. They won't make it possible for us to figure out what to do next if these falter. We need to learn to fish for ourselves. We need to be able to find the ideas that will work for us. (Prov 11:14) It is fine to get information from others and to avoid reinventing the wheel. To continue the fishing analogy, we need the tools to catch the ideas and figure out which ones are *"keepers"* and which to throw back.

As Christians, we should not be doing just what we want. We should be doing what the Lord wants. In order to do what He wants, we need to know how to discern what He wants. It is easy to have others hand us the *"fish"* of faith. But I want to encourage you to use the tools to help you fish for yourself. It has been said God does not call everyone in the same way. And He seldom calls the same person in the same way twice. We are unique beings, and He wants to deal with each of us individually. Most of us do not share a dramatic call on the Damascus road like the Apostle Paul's, but we should all share his response, *"Lord, what do you want me to do."* (Psalm 73:23-24)

Clearly, we are told to obey His commandments. Obedience to obvious commandments is the first step to seeing what He wants. When we see something from God, we need to act on it. Romans 12:1 says *"present your body a living sacrifice."* Other passages tell us what to avoid and what to do. I could tell you what He wants for me, but that won't help you follow Him. Ephesians 6:6 tells us to serve *"not with eyeservice, as men pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."* When we are obedient, He will reveal the next step in conforming us to the image of His Son and make us fit for the Master's use.

We would like a list of rules to simplify life. Yet, He tried that with ten simple things called commandments and we failed. So, after sending His Son to die for our sins, He sent His Spirit to live in us. Rather than rules, we have constant access to Him in real time by His Spirit. The Bible is not just words on a page when you come seeking the face of God and asking the Spirit to make Him real to you. Our walk is not by rote - it is a relationship. We need to learn to depend on Him and not ourselves. He wants to be there for us at all times. Our part is to yield to Him and be the servants He calls us to be.

We need to be cautious. In 2 Kings 5, Naaman, a commander of the Syrian army who was a leper, was told to do something very simple to be healed. He felt he was too good for it, and he balked. It wasn't grand and glorious enough for him. God most likely will call us to do humble things. Sometimes they will appear to be beneath us. We need to learn to listen. When we do something, it should be God who gets the glory. Our Lord humbled himself, and we should be willing to do anything, no matter what we think, if He calls us to it.

> When we do something,
> it should be God
> who gets the glory.

We need to learn to *"fish"* from Him for God to be Lord of our lives. We have His Word for a foundation. We can be used of Him for His eternal glory in whatever He leads us to do with our lives. Our part is to learn to know Him to the point where He can speak to us on everything in our lives. We are each called to labor - no one is called to sit around and wait for His return. We each need to learn what He wants us to do. He is ready to teach - we just need to follow.