

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Back to Basics

One of the basic necessities of life is water—without it, we would cease to exist—and yet, it is seldom thought about until, for some reason, it is not available. Have you ever noticed that, on a hot day, when you're nowhere near a drinking fountain, you get your thirstiest? That the only thing you really care about is that nice cool drink of water?

Consider, however, when water is abundant. It's then that the bare necessities of life seem to change...that we find we "can't do without" other things. Take, for example, the "daily bath."

It just doesn't seem right without our favorite soap or shampoo.

And, of course, no one would put on dirty clothes after getting clean...

So, we either have to wash the same outfit every day or buy a change of clothes...

So, we might as well consider at least one more set of clothes as a necessity...

But who can buy clothes without money?

And, in order to make money, one needs a job.

But, if we're going to go to all that work to make money, we might as well enjoy the fruits
of our labor!...

So, why not buy two outfits instead of one?...

Though, what's the use of having beautiful clothes if no one else sees them?...

So, maybe eating out at a fancy restaurant would be the thing...

Though, after awhile, the home cooking might start to look a little boring...

And so on and so on.

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The “water” that we “drank” made us thirst for more...more water and more than water, until the luxuries became the necessities.

So what, then, are the necessities of life?

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” [Matthew 6:25]

And, what about the water?

“Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” [John 4:13-14]

It is one of the basic necessities of life—for without it, we would cease to exist.

(June 29, 1979)