

Accelerating Our Spiritual Growth, Part 4

October 4, 2009 Pastor Bill Bump

Until we learn to feed ourselves from God's Word, we're never going to be able to grow spiritually.

Matthew 4:4 (NLT) “...People need more than bread for their life; they must feed on every word of God.”

As human beings, one of the marks of maturity is when we learn to feed ourselves.

Hebrews 5:12 (NLT) You have been Christians a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you still need someone to teach you...You are like babies who drink only milk and cannot eat solid food.

IF I AM GOING TO GROW SPIRITUALLY...

1. I MUST ACCEPT THE BIBLE AS MY AUTHORITY

I Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV) And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

FOUR UNRELIABLE SOURCES OF AUTHORITY:

A. Culture

Exodus 23:2 (NLT) “Do not join a crowd that intends to do evil...”

Isaiah 5:20 (NLT) Destruction is certain for those who say that evil is good and good is evil; that dark is light and light is dark; that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter.

B. Tradition

Mark 7:8 (NIV) “You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”

C. Reason

Proverb 16:25 (NIV) There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

D. Emotions

Judges 21:25 (NLT) In those days Israel had no king, so the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

II Timothy 3:16,17 (Mes) Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us the truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped for the tasks God has for us.

FOUR THINGS THE WORD OF GOD ACCOMPLISHES:

- A. Shows the truth
- B. It exposes our rebellion
- C. It corrects our mistakes
- D. It trains us how to live God’s way

2. I MUST LEARN TO STUDY GOD’S WORD

John 5:39 (NIV) “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life...

II Timothy 2:15 (NIV) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Psalms 1:1,2 (GN) Happy are those who reject the advice of evil people, who do not follow the example of sinners or join those who have no use for God. Instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night.

CONCLUSION:

Spending time in Bible reflection is the highest impact personal spiritual practice.

It is thoughtful personal meditation that catalyzes spiritual growth.

We invite you to look over the verses in your sermon notes this week and ask and answer the following three questions (You are encouraged to get a notebook to record your thoughts.):

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean?
3. What does the verse mean to me personally?