

The Path: Maturing Measurable

Sunday, July 15, 2012

Intro: At RTBC we believe that the Spiritual Life is a Journey of learning to walk with God. Journey anyone can take Starts with a Personal relationship with God through Jesus, at which point you begin that Journey

1Peter 2:2 “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation...”

Growing people is just like growing plants. You can't MAKE something...or someone grow... What you CAN do is create the environment in which growth is most likely to take place. While I cant MAKE my flowers grow. Water, Sun, Fertilizer, Weed

To that end we have defined a Path based on what the bible teaches that will help you grow

- WW GG SMT SNF GG MM

My job today is to talk about the last one Maturing Measurably. In doing that I want to look with you at Heb 5:11-14 pg 848
6 Myths of Spiritual Maturity

1. I Can Grow Spiritually Without Exerting Myself. Vs 11

Slow to Learn: Lit =to be slow, sluggish, lazy or slothful!

Not talking about having a natural limitation, but a limitation imposed because you simply don't apply yourself

ILLUS: Sometimes we think to ourselves, I will just hang out and I will grow automatically, naturally

That is not more likely to happen than if you take a flower home and put it on the porch, say, Im not going to water, sun, fertilizer, never pay attention to it...and it will be ok!

Picture of plant on back porch

(I will occasionally talk with people, they will say, not growing spiritually, Devotions? Worship? Study?)

2. I Will Grow Spiritually as a Natural Result of Time Passing. Vs 12

By this time...elementary truths all over again!

This myth is all about time. If I just hang around church and spiritual things long enough I will grow!

I know some people that say, I am spiritually mature, grown up spiritually because I have been in church 20 years!

But, when you begin to talk with them you realize, they don't have 20 years of walking with Jesus.

They have 2 years 10 times! 1 year...20 times! They have never progressed beyond the first stages because they haven't applied themselves! They continually make the same mistakes, they continually fall into the same traps, Same problems!

Just because time has passed, it doesn't mean you have grown. It may just mean...time has passed! True of the Hebrews

3. I Can Grow Spiritually by Feeding off a Diet of Spiritual Milk Prepared by Others. Vs 12,13

You need milk, not solid food

- Repentance Faith Baptism
- Laying on Hands Resurrection Judgment

ILLUS: Some people never learn to feed themselves spiritually. They are always dependant upon someone else (birds)

They never learn to read the bible for themselves. They never learn how to study and grow.

I talk to people who say, “I'm going to a church, and I never learn anything...not growing.”

True that sometime what is being preached isn't helpful, but you also have to ask...what are YOU doing?

Are you involved in a GG? SS Class? Personal bible study of any kind? Or, dependant upon someone else?

WW, GG...We have it included in our Path for a reason!

4. I Can Grow Spiritually Without Engaging in Any Kind of Personal Ministry. Vs 13

Not acquainted with: Lit = *To be Unskilled; to not have any practical experience; To be clumsy because unfamiliar*

ILLUS: When I was in Cuba, Handed them a Concordance. They were unskilled, but, quickly learned

When I go to Mexico, I work in the Kitchen. Give me a knife, tomatos, onions, potatos

Some of us are that way with ministry. We KNOW intellectually what to do...be we aren't skilled

Key: You CANNOT grow spiritually apart from practical ministry! You can have all the understanding in world

But, until you actually get in the trenches and start serving others you are unskilled!

That is one reason I LOVED the Mexico trip this year though I could not go.

Parents and children serving along side, Mom's and dads teaching their children about ministry!

There is NO substitute for experience. What SS lesson, Craft Activity, What Sermon, What Song teach?

