

General Topics :: Four Stages of the Christian Life

Four Stages of the Christian Life - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2005/5/31 19:39

I've been reading Andrew Murray's "The Secret To Spiritual Strength" and wanted to share some of it. The whole book is about how to live for Christ in HIS strength instead of through our own efforts.

"The Four Stages of the Christian Life:

In the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus, I recognize four stages of the Christian life. First there is the stage of the sad and troubled heart. Then there is the time where the heart is slow to believe. This is followed by the period of the burning heart. But the highest level we are to reach is the stage of the satisfied heart. (note: on my part, I was leery of this. I don't want to be satisfied, I want a holy "dissatisfaction- but we must read on :)

The Sad and Troubled Heart

Imagine how the disciples were feeling that morning as they started their journey. Their hearts were sad and troubled because they thought that Jesus was dead. They did not know He was alive, and this is the way it is with a lot of Christians. They look to the cross and they struggle to trust Christ, but they have never learned the blessedness of believing that there is a living Christ who will do everything in them...

Slow to Believe

The second stage is taken from the words that Christ spoke to the disciples when He told them that they were "slow of heart to believe". Yes, there are many Christians today who have heard the gospel and who know that they must not only believe in a crucified Christ but in a living Christ, and they try to grasp it and take it in, but it does not bring them a blessing. Why? They do not receive the blessing because they want to FEEL it and not to BELIEVE it.

The first stage is one of ignorance, and the second stage is one of unbelief. The doubting heart cannot take in the truth that Jesus lives.

The Burning Heart

The third stage of the Christian life is the burning heart stage. Jesus came to the two disciples, and after He had reproved them, He began to interpret the Scriptures for them and to tell them of all the wonderful things the prophets had taught. Then their eyes were opened, and they saw that it was true that it had been prophesied that Christ must rise. It rested upon them, and they began to feel their hearts BURN with joy and gladness.

You may be saying, "This is the final stage at which you need to arrive." Yet, God forbid that you should stop there. The disciples had had a blessed experience of His divine power, but He had not revealed Himself. Our hearts often burn with us at Bible conferences, in churches, in meetings, and in blessed fellowship with God's people. - yet there is something lacking. WHAT IS IT?

There is a great difference between a burning heart, which becomes cold after awhile, and which comes and goes, and the blessed revelation of Jesus Himself as my Savior who takes charge of me and blesses me and KEEPS me every day!

The Satisfied Heart

The final stage, which I have just described, is the stage of the satisfied heart. I pray that you will arrive at this stage. I am sure that you are praying for this as well. I am praying that I will arrive at this stage in my own life.

If you are sad and unable to comprehend or accept this and if you are saying, "I have never yet known the joy of faith," read the following words carefully, because I am going to tell you how you can know it.

Everything centers around ONE THING. Just as a little child lives day by day in the arms of his mother and grows up ye

after a year under his mother's loving eye, it is possible for you to live every day and hour of your life in fellowship with the Holy Jesus.

Perhaps you have arrived at the stage of the burning heart and can relate many blessed experiences that you have had, but somehow there is a worm at the root. **The experiences do not last and your heart is very changeable.** Come, beloved believer, and follow Christ. Say, "Jesus, reveal Yourself so that I may know You personally. I am not only asking to **drink the living water, I want the Fountain.** I am not only asking to **bathe myself in the light, I want the "Sun of righteousness"** within my heart.

To Whom Does Jesus Reveal Himself?

Those who give up everything for Him. Christ revealed Himself to those disciples who had given up everything for Him. He had said to them, "Deny yourself, and take up your cross and follow Me", and they had done it. With all their unfaithfulness and with all their weaknesses, they had followed Christ to the end. They were **not perfect men**, but they would have died for Him. They had loved Him, obeyed Him, followed Him. They had left everything.

You say, "Tell me what Christ wants from me so that I may have His wonderful presence. Tell me the kind of person to whom Christ will reveal Himself in the highest and fullest way." My answer is, "He will reveal Himself to the one who is ready to give up everything and to follow Him." If Christ is to give Himself wholly to me, He must know that I am wholly committed to Him.

I trust that God will give us grace, so that these words I have written about consecration and surrender- **not only of all evil, but of many lawful things, and even, if necessary, of life itself**- may lead us to understand the demand that Jesus makes upon us. The first step is to turn away from everything else and to follow Him, to give up everything in submission to Him and just live a life of **simple love and obedience.**"

-Andrew Murray (The Secret To Spiritual Strength)

Re: Four Stages of the Christian Life - posted by arielle (), on: 2005/5/31 19:54

yes, i find this to be very true. it amazes me to see how many Christians (including myself) are still at the "burning heart" stage. our hearts still burn with "zeal" --whether it be true authentic zeal or not--but how many can say that they are at perfect peace? that their hearts are at perfect rest? at a place where they find complete and absolute satisfaction in Christ? i see so many still stuck in revival, in new "revelations", in things of "religious" matter...that leaves them with a great and heart-stirring feeling..but how often this feeling changes! these short spurts of "feelings" only stay for a matter of time..how we need to live one in Christ constantly..every moment of each day. how i need to long for this satisfaction every day and focus on that one thing..**Christ.** i will never forget the quote by watchman nee *"with complete consecration comes perfect peace."* when we give all to Him....then, we will be at peace and in a place of contentment.

oh, how i would live in His presence daily... **"then He said to all of them, 'if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up His cross daily, and follow Me.'"** (luke 9:23) surrender is not a one time thing...but something that we must live out each and every day...then we will be able to say that we are fully satisfied! how far i have to go..but how i long for that day when i can say such a thing!

in Him,
arielle

Re: amen to that, on: 2005/6/1 20:32

i have given my whole life to the Lord and the Lord has shown me wonderful things! he can take everything away from us when he pleases so i have nothing to give him because it's his anyway, many of you believe i'm living in sin, but how can this be when i have given my whole self to the Lord! i have been through many stages of the christian life, and in the end all there is, is God! God is my life and i will not go away because you think i'm in sin, all you have done is pushed things aside, but the truth is right in front of you, you just need to give more time to the Lord and what he wants of you not what you think he wants of you! how do you guys know that i have not got to this stage if you still question this in yourselves?

this was a question for crosscheck! Do you know you have really reached maturity, how can we be sure of others if we are not sure ourselves?

Dear crosscheck i cannot leave this site because the Lord has many words for you through me and yes you may call me of satan if this makes you FEEL better ,but the Lord Jesus Christ is gonna have the last say not you or me, but GOD! I know the Lord is going to start to show you things youve never been shown before and this is going to be new for you and others on this site!

I AM not a wolf in sheeps clothing nor am i of the devil ,he does not belong in my life and never will again, I AM CHRIST speaking through Marina my servant and she does my will and satan could never use these words in one of my own, i love all on this site and these are great days for you all. These days are the end and I AM the only way for eternal LIFE! xx
x

Re: marina - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2005/6/1 21:32

marina,

i am not sure why you decided to respond to Mike (crsschk) through this thread. If you have something you would like to discuss with Mike, you might want to private message him instead.

We are all growing and maturing in Christ-likeness. :)

In Christ, Chanin

Re: ok, on: 2005/6/2 6:52

ok chanin no problems, forgot about the private rooms!