



Scriptures and Doctrine :: The Path to Spiritual Maturity

The Path to Spiritual Maturity - posted by twayneb (), on: 2017/8/8 18:22

In commenting on another post, this thought crossed my mind. What contributes to spiritual maturity? How is it obtained? I know the KJV uses words like perfect or complete to mean mature. I wonder if we could compile a list of scriptures here that tell us how we grow to spiritual maturity. I will start with this one.

Eph. 4:11-15 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

We can receive ministry from the gifts that God has given the body so that we can learn truth. We can submit ourselves to anointed leadership and to a body so that God can use where we are at to cause us to grow up.

Re: The Path to Spiritual Maturity - posted by dohzman (), on: 2017/8/8 22:19

2Pe 1:2

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

2Pe 1:3

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2Pe 1:4

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2Pe 1:5

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

2Pe 1:6

And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

2Pe 1:7

And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2Pe 1:8

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Re: The Path to Spiritual Maturity, on: 2017/8/8 22:55

Great posts. So much to chew on.

Hebrews 5: 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Colossians 2:1 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Re: The Path to Spiritual Maturity - posted by Sree (), on: 2017/8/8 22:57

Hebrews 5 13&14-

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But so lid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Spiritual maturity comes by continuous discernment of good and evil. They have their senses trained for spiritual discernment.

Re: , on: 2017/8/8 23:08

Proverbs 2:1 My son, if you receive my words,
And treasure my commands within you,
2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom,
And apply your heart to understanding;
3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment,
And lift up your voice for understanding,
4 If you seek her as silver,
And search for her as for hidden treasures;
5 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord,
And find the knowledge of God.
6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;
7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;
8 He guards the paths of justice,
And preserves the way of His saints.
9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice,
Equity and every good path.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2017/8/9 7:04

1Jo 2:12

I write to you, little children,
Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

1Jo 2:13

I write to you, fathers,
Because you have known Him who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young men,
Because you have overcome the wicked one.
I write to you, little children,
Because you have known the Father.

1Jo 2:14

I have written to you, fathers,
Because you have known Him who is from the beginning.
I have written to you, young men,
Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you,
And you have overcome the wicked one.

As children our sins are forgiven. As young men, for those who have grown strong and the word of God abides, these have overcome the devil. And finally, for those who have walked with Jesus for a long time, these have become fathers amongst the congregation.

Re: The Path to Spiritual Maturity - posted by proudpapa, on: 2017/8/9 7:33

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen."

The path to Spiritual Maturity is growing in Grace and this is accomplished by growing in our knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2017/8/9 8:11

1 ¶ If I speak human or angelic languages but do not have love, I am a sounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 ¶ If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 ¶ And if I donate all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body in order to boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 ¶ Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not conceited,

5 ¶ does not act improperly, is not selfish, is not provoked, and does not keep a record of wrongs.

6 ¶ Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth.

7 ¶ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 ¶ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for languages, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

9 ¶ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 ¶ But when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end.

11 ¶ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put aside childish things.

12 ¶ For now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known.

13 ¶ Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Learning to lay ourselves down for love... sacrificial love/perfection

Being totally dependent on God,... maturity/perfection

Learning obedience thru suffering.... perseverance/perfection

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2017/8/9 8:35

I love it! Gives me something to meditate on today. More?

Re: , on: 2017/8/9 9:25

Romans 12

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in

proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2017/8/9 9:38

John 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

We are matured or made perfect through intimacy with Him. The Father in Christ, Christ in us, and unity between us. Being one with Him.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2017/8/9 15:56

Faith in God, obedience to His Word, and submission to the discipline of the Lord, His pruning and chastisement are all a vital part of our spiritual growth.

as newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation; (1 Peter 2:2).

"Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:4).

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." (2 Peter 3:18).

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." (Ephesians 4:15).

Night and day he sleeps and wakes, and the seed sprouts and grows, though he knows not how. 28 All by itself the earth produces a crop - first the stalk, then the head, then grain that ripens within. 29 And as soon as the grain is ripe, he swings the sickle, because the harvest has come." (Mark 4:27-29).

"And those sown on good ground are they that hear the word, and receive it, and bear fruits, by thirties, and by sixties, and by hundreds. " (Mark 4:20).

Re: , on: 2017/8/9 16:07

Philippians 2:1. 2 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Re: , on: 2017/8/10 9:42

"We cannot grow in Jesus without His love" I've read these passages many times, but this time it hit home hard....even to the point of loving our enemies, and doing good to them." Thanks for starting this thread, there's so much good food and drink here.

1 John 4: 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him **because He first loved us.**

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

(Sharing this one again). :)

1 Corinthians 13:1

13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. **2** And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; **5** does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; **6** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part. **10** But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **12** For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Re: - posted by TakeUptheCross, on: 2017/8/11 9:44

"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." (John 15:2)

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

By the way, have you realized what a blessing it is that we can post here scriptures freely?! May His word be in our hearts and minds... think on these things!

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2017/8/11 9:53

John 15 has become one of my favorite chapters in all of the NT. Abiding in Him is where it is at. It is really the one key to unlock it all spiritually. His presence is everything.

Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2017/8/11 10:06

Sister Esther,

Quote:"By the way, have you realized what a blessing it is that we can post here scriptures freely?! May His word be in our hearts and minds... think on these things!"

Amen to that! What a privilege! These discussions cause us to dive deeper into the Word and really seek things out and dig for the treasures contained therein.

One big bible study group! Different points of view, challenging but edifying at the same time.

For example, the recent posts about the baptism of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit stirred me in a fresh way to once again put into practice what I believe and desire a new working of the Spirit in and through my life!

Blessings,

Re: , on: 2017/8/11 11:23

Esther said:

""""By the way, have you realized what a blessing it is that we can post here scriptures freely?! May His word be in our hearts and minds... think on these things!""""

Yes dear Sister, Amen! Jesus is our all. We truly are blessed to freely share the Word of God! We have SO much to be thankful for...in the good, and even through the trials. (((Love you Sister)))

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you foreverâ€” 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.â€”

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, â€œRepent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.â€”

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2017/8/11 11:55

This scripture is the first step "in my opinion" to begin a real spiritual maturity walk. Get past this and you're on your way.

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.â€”Galatians 1:10

Re: , on: 2017/8/12 17:12

""""This scripture is the first step "in my opinion" to begin a real spiritual maturity walk. Get past this and you're on your way. Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.â€”Galatians 1:10""""

Amen. We can't please anyone but God. Good reminder Bro Bill.

(The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
We need the wisdom of God in order to produce the fruit of righteousness.)

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Re: - posted by TakeUptheCross, on: 2017/8/14 14:13

I have couple of questions, and I think they are not off-topic.

1. Bro Travis, I've realized few years ago the difference between John's epistle and all other epistles. Have you any idea why did John get such revelation of God - and I do not mean the book of Revelation - but why did He get hold of those words of Christ, those discussion with the Jews, the fellowship on the Lord's supper? "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Does it have something to do with his personal desire to know the Lord, with his character? Cause I think that Peter or James could have as well leaned on Jesus's breast - but they didn't. Or at least it is not recorded. Hope you understand my thoughts.

2. Is it possible to have all our doctrine right? I yesterday talked with some people from the church and I said something like "I don't think we will ever know all things." But as I thought of it today - I think I was wrong.

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12, 13)

"Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Ephesians 5:25-27)

The other verse that seems to be somewhat in contrast to that is: "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." (and we know that speaks of the time when we will see God face to face).

I know that a Christian should never stop to grow. S. Wigglesworth has said: "To live two days in succession on the same spiritual plane is a tragedy." And I know that we should always run, fight and strive like Paul. But isn't there a fullness that God want us to receive / arrive at. Christ said that the Holy Spirit would guide us into "all truth" - so I think it should be possible to have all doctrine and practice right. I think, it is the will of God.

Re: - posted by TakeUptheCross, on: 2017/8/14 14:13

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2017/8/15 8:30

Quote:
----- 1. Bro Travis, I've realized few years ago the difference between John's epistle and all other epistles. Have you any idea why did John get such revelation of God - and I do not mean the book of Revelation - but why did He get hold of those words of Christ, those discussion with the Jews, the fellowship on the Lord's supper? "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Does it have something to do with his personal desire to know the Lord, with his character? Cause I think that Peter or James could have as well leaned on Jesus's breast - but they didn't. Or at least it is not recorded. Hope you understand my thoughts.

I believe you are right. There seems to be a revelation that John received, or at least was able to communicate, that so

me how seems to go a step beyond that what is communicated by the writers of the other gospels. And John says of himself that he was the disciple that Jesus loved.

I think there is something to that. Paul tells us in Ephesians 3 that comprehending the love of God for us is the key to being filled with all the fullness of God. In fact, it implies that apart from this revelation we will only be partially filled with what God has for us.

I think that most of us have not been able to comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of His love for us. That revelation of His love passes knowledge, meaning we cannot in our own intellectual understanding even begin to approach an understanding of His love for us. It takes the revelation of the Holy Spirit to have this kind of understanding.

John had this revelation. And I believe it opened the door in His life for a greater revelation of who God is and who Christ is. I agree with you. I think we all have this level of revelation of His love available to us. But will we reach out and receive it? Most of us would say yes, yet we cannot receive it with our hands filled with other things, and I think most of us are not yet willing to let go of those other things. Those things might be sinful things, but that is not what I am talking about here. Those things are usually our own ideas of what this walk with God should look like.

For example, I have seen many people get somewhat offended at (meaning to stumble at) certain things the Bible has to say about believers. We might read that we have received His righteousness and stand before God just as righteous as Jesus is. But we see our own flesh and have been taught that we are, praise God, going to heaven, but it is almost as if God has to look the other way for us to get there and we think it blasphemous to think we are as righteous as Jesus. We are focused on man's teaching and our own flesh, which can never be perfect, thus the reason for glorification at the end of it all. Yet there are lists of scriptures that speak to the righteousness we have received from Him, and not our own righteousness. We must let go of our own in order to have His if that makes sense.

Quote:
----- 2. Is it possible to have all our doctrine right? I yesterday talked with some people from the church and I said something like "I don't think we will ever know all things." But as I thought of it today - I think I was wrong.

In totality, I think no. But I do believe we will in ever increasing measure. I love the scriptures you quoted. I would also add 1 Cor. chapter 2. At one time eye had not seen and ear had not heard. But we have been given that knowledge and that revelation through the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit we have been given the mind of Christ. I love the way one singer put it. The song says, "I'm out of my mind and into the mind of Christ."

But again, I think the rate and depth of growth into maturity is directly proportional to the level of relationship. If you abide in Me (first) and my words abide in you (second), then shall you ask what you will.... Revelation knowledge comes through time and relationship. Abiding is the key to understanding. Look at how Paul's teaching that we have revelation of the love of God brings the fullness of God. Look at how John tells us to abide in Him and His word in us brings answered prayer. This should be, I think, one of the major things that we teach believers. Intimacy and relationship lead to maturity and fruit.

In 1 Cor. 1:10, Paul expresses His desire for unity in the church. But the same thing that Paul wants them to speak only comes as they all receive revelation from God and this happens only when they all are in close communion with Him. I do believe it is His will that we have all of our doctrine and practice right. We are the ones that keep His will from coming to pass in this area.

Re: The Path to Spiritual Maturity - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2017/8/16 14:17

Spiritual maturity is all about becoming fruitful, bearing fruit, and this was mentioned on another thread that the only way that we are going to be fruitful is to abide in Christ, and have His word abiding in us.

"He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for apart from Me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5).

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (John 15:7).

Spiritual growth will only come about if we are true disciples of the Lord.

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed;" (John 8:31).

Re: - posted by TakeUptheCross, on: 2017/8/17 15:23

Thanks, bro Travis! I would have some follow-up questions but will probably post them later...

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2017/8/17 16:59

Christianity may mean nothing more than a religious system. The Christian life may mean nothing more than an earnest and honest attempt to follow and imitate Christ. The Christ life is more than these and expresses our actual union with the Lord Jesus Christ. He is actually in us as the life and source of all our experience and work. This conception of the highest Christian life is at once simpler and more sublime than any other. We do not teach that the purpose of Christ's redemption is to restore us to Adamic perfection, for if we had it we should lose it tomorrow. Rather, it is to unite us with the second Adam, and to lift us up to a higher plane than our first parents ever knew. This is the only thing that can reconcile the warring elements of diverse schools of teaching with respect to Christian life. The Spirit of God will lead us to have no controversy respecting mere theories. Rather, we are simply to hold to the person and life of Jesus Christ Himself and the privilege of being united to Him through living in constant dependence upon His keeping power and grace.

A.B.Simpson

Re: , on: 2017/8/20 20:14

This thread is wonderful! Thank you so much for all the scriptures and feedback. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have more discussions like this? To encourage, build up the body, edify.

Philippians 3: 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

Righteousness cannot come through the law, instead we count it loss so we may gain Christ, and come to the knowledge of Jesus. We are a work in progress....we have not attained nor have we been perfected, but we press on growing up into Jesus.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2017/8/21 9:34

"This thread is wonderful! Thank you so much for all the scriptures and feedback. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have more discussions like this? To encourage, build up the body, edify."

Amen Sister!

"But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." (Hebrews 3:13).

Re: , on: 2017/8/23 10:39

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Hebrews 12: 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

After reading the thread "Give them something to eat", it really made me ponder.

The Lord will allow a variety of trials, tribulations, storms, to enter our lives, whether it's through chastisement or just training us. It's through those storms that we trust Jesus by FAITH. We cannot grow and produce the peaceable fruit of righteousness without our faith being tried by fire.

Re: - posted by TakeUptheCross, on: 2017/8/23 15:27