

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

7.23.2023

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Becoming Spiritually Sound

## **1 Corinthians 13: 11**

How do we achieve spiritual maturity? Spiritual maturity is achieved by becoming more Christ like. The beginning of our spiritual maturity begins, when by faith believing in Christ, we accept Gods saving grace, which means changing one's priorities from that of self-righteousness to that of a consistency of obedience to Gods word. Therefore, one of the key objectives to a spiritually mature life is striving to do those things which will strengthen our relationship with God. This comes by walking in the spirit of God and walking under the spirit's control. All of our spiritual growth comes by the grace of God, but we are responsible for making the choice to follow after his grace.

**Galatians 5: 16,....**this I say then, walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh....

As Christians, we are called to live a spiritual life in Christ, which means living in the spirit, by the spirit, praying in the spirit, and walking not only in the spirit but also in the truthfulness of the spirit. We are to live by the grace of God through faith in his Son, Christ. We are to walk in spirit and in truth by the leadership of the Holy Ghost, who guides us by the word of truth. In this, we then are willing to submit to God's will, in every situation, becoming obedient to his word, and trusting in his word. We should never rely on our own human abilities, actions, or strengths, we should only rely on the strength and power given unto us by a sovereign God.

**Galatians 5: 17,....**for the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would....

From the moment that we received our new life in Christ, the old sin nature, which we inherited from Adam, begin to conflict with our new Christ like spiritual nature. Could God have chosen to remove that old sinful nature once we were born again, sure he could have, but he allowed it to remain, he allowed the two natures to coexist in this earthly mortal body, so as to remind us of our worldly weaknesses, and to ensure us that we would remain in a surrendered life, totally dependent upon him.

**Romans 7: 24 – 25,....**O wretched man that I am, who should deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord....so then with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin....

Often time, as Christians, our spiritual maturity is hindered by worldly frustration. This worldly frustration comes when we desire to do good and obey God's word, when we desire to live a life that is holy and glorifies God, and fulfilling his promises unto us, but then discovering that we are incapable of doing so because all this time we have been trying to accomplish this service to God of our own strength. We want to do good, but we end up sinning, we want to obey his word, but we end up in disobedience, therefore, every human effort that we make brings us to the understanding that we are incapable of living in the fulness of God on our own.

**Romans 7: 15,....**for that which I do I allow not, for what I would, that do I not, but what I hate, that I do....

Only when we are able to understand the importance of living a godly life in Christ, will we be able to discover that the only way to be victorious over the principles of sin in our life is to remain in the grace of God, through faith in Christ, which brought us unto his saving grace to begin with, and it was then that we begin our walk into the spiritual maturity of God.

**1 Corinthians 13: 11,....**when I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things....

Life itself is all about growing and maturing, and at some point in time, which we call the age of our accountability, God gives unto us the knowledge of his will, in various ways, and he also gives unto us the responsibility of making the choice either to begin our life in his Son, Christ, or to reject and turn away from the truth of the gospel, which means that we are still growing and maturing, but now because we have made the choice to be born again, we are growing and maturing through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit instead of worldliness. Now, God wants others around us to see this spiritual maturity and growth, but how do they recognize our spiritual maturity.

**Matthew 7: 17,....**even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit....

As Christians, others will see our actions when we begin to give up the old selfish patterns of our life and we begin to embrace our new life in Christ. This means that everything in our life starts to change, every word, every characteristic, and even the way that we think. This is because we are changing from the ways of the world to the living ways of the hope of the kingdom of God.

**2 Peter 1: 5 – 8,....**and beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity....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....

In our life in Christ, there are many lessons that we must learn when it comes to growing in our spiritual maturity in God, and it is the Holy Spirit that is our guide and our teacher as we learn to grow from God's grace to his glory, from justification into sanctification, and from the redemption of the cross to eternal glorification with God. The word of God provides all the instruction that we need for life and godliness.

This passage of scripture shows us what the characteristics of a spiritually mature Christian should look like. Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity or love. Now, these traits are not listed in any order so that we might strive for them one at a time in our life, trying to master one before moving on to the next, but becoming spiritually mature means striving to grow in all of these godly characteristics. Now, remember that none of us will become perfect and mature in all of these spiritual traits, but through prayer, and the study of Gods word, by the guidance of the spirit of God, we must continually strive to develop these godly characteristics in our life in Christ.

**2 Peter 1: 10,....**wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure, for if ye do these things, ye shall never fail....

God elects, that everyone, by faith, would come to trust in Christ for their salvation, but sadly not all will accept his invitation. For those who choose to accept his free gift of salvation, our calling and election is made sure, strengthened in the unity of one another in the body of Christ. When we are saved by grace through faith, God accepts us in Christ, we are positioned in him, and we are sealed with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Therefore, we are encouraged by the word of God to give all diligence to the truth of Gods promises regarding the spiritual truth of our salvation.

**2 Corinthians 13: 5,....**examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith, prove your own selves....know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates.... (Do ye not know that it is Christ that it is in you, for if Christ is not in you, then are we condemned already.)

Having this absolute assurance in our heart, and in our mind, gives unto us security in Christ. This is a security that God will establish in every aspect of our lives, if we will allow him to do so. The more that we trust in God and his word, the more that we will acknowledge him in all things in our life, and the more that we will understand the importance of becoming spiritually mature in our life.

Let us Pray.

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