

## Principles Of Spiritual Growth – 03/11/20

### Preparation

**TEXT** – Mat 5:6 *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after. . .*

**INTRO** – The Bible is filled with commands, warnings and principles by which we should live. How can we build upon our biblical foundation in Christ after we have been saved? There are basic principles that we must follow.

God's basic ingredient for growth is need. God allows needs in our lives

**Gal 2:20** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**Needs cause us to reach out and appropriate faith.**

Without spiritual hunger our growth will be stagnant.

The idiom "**Necessity is the mother of invention**" is an English proverb. It means that the primary driving force for most new inventions is a need.

When the need for something becomes imperative, you are forced to find ways of getting or achieving it

### I. We must hunger after righteousness

**Mat 5:6** *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

**Rev 3:17** *Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

**Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people**

**Isa 40:3** *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

#### A. Salvation must be seen as a need

**Amos 4:12** *Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.*

**Luk 5:32** *I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*

**Lu 19:10** *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost*

**There must be a spiritual hunger for God and salvation.**

We cannot inject a spiritual appetite by force or compel others to be hungry. There must be impression by God out of the need of a soul.

**It will be accentuated by the Word of God and the witness of others but it can only come to fruition when it is seen as a personal need.**

#### B. Service is accompanied through recognizing the need

**Through a bitter experience a believer realizes his own inadequacies**

**There must be a deep, thorough and long preparation if our lives are to be Christ-centered., our walk controlled by the Holy Spirit and our service glorifying to God.**

**Mat 11:28-29** *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

Spiritual success is only possible as we are removed from the dominion of the self-life. **Rom. 7:18** *"No good thing"*

**Psa 10:17** *LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:*

### C. The value of struggle

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared in the cocoon. Fascinated, he sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through the little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and could go no farther.

After waiting for some time, the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and nipped the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily.

But alas, it did not unfurl its wings and fly gracefully away. The butterfly had a swollen body and shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly hoping that the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time.

Neither happened. In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and deformed wings. It was never able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the small opening of the cocoon are nature's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings, so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

**James 1:3** *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

**James 4:7-10** *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*

*Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

**Psa 119:71** *It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.*

### D. It is God's work in us that enables us to be victorious

**Php 1:6** *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

**The Lord is glorified in a people whose heart is set at any cost, by any road, upon the goal which is God Himself.**

**2 Ti 2:21** *If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*

## **II. It Is God That Does The Work**

**Php 2:13** *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

**Zec 4:6** *Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*

**Gal 4:19** *My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,*

**1 Th 2:13** *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

**Php 2:12-13** *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye 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 which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*