

BECOMING MATURE IN CHRIST

The Keys of Spiritual Development

Desire the Pure Milk of the Word that You May Grow

Part I: 2 Timothy 3:16

Intro: To be confident of our salvation brings us to a place where we can begin to grow in Christ. Paul writes that our faith for justification and the new birth is but the introduction into the grace wherein we now stand (Romans 5:1). Those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose will desire to come to maturity in their faith.

There are specific tools given by the Holy Spirit that, in His hands and with our cooperation, bring about that transformation of life and character that are pleasing to God and which demonstrate His will and purposes in our life. Perhaps first among them in His Word which is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path (Psalm 119:105).

I. The Word of God: The Final Authority for Our Faith and Life, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- A. All Scripture is **INSPIRED** by God... (θεόπνευστος, theopneustos)
 - 1. Literally “God breathed”
 - 2. Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God (2 Peter 1:21)
- B. All **SCRIPTURE** is inspired by God...
 - 1. The blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah (Matthew 23:34-35) [from 2 Genesis 4 and 2 Chronicles 24:21]
 - 2. Not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished (Matthew 5:17-18)
- C. **ALL** Scripture is inspired by God... There is no question that Jesus and the NT writers believed that every single word in the “Old Testament” were the very words of God Himself, including spiritual and moral guidance as well as history and “science.”

II. Efforts to Limit the Authority of Scripture

- A. “The Bible contains the Word of God.”
- B. “The Bible becomes the Word of God as we read it.” (See 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- C. “Only the concepts were inspired, the authors chose the words and illustrations.”
- D. “God accommodated Himself to the culture and beliefs of the writers and their times.” “Jesus accommodated Himself to the people of His day in an effort to relate.”
- E. “The Bible is only infallible in matters of faith and salvation.”

III. The Pitfall of the Autonomy of Reason (Rationalism)

- A. Rationalism, by definition, excludes the metaphysical as a source of information or a reality with which to reckon.
- B. Rationalism, of necessity, is pursued by fallible human beings for whom the absence of prejudice, values, theories, and predispositions is impossible. (Quote from D.A.Carson.)
- C. Rationalism leaves us devoid of absolute truth, with both feet planted firmly in mid air, and no way to know anything about God or eternal life. We cannot have it both ways: we must make a choice.

REFERENCES

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

(1Pe 2:1-3 NAU)

You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

(2Ti 3:14-17 NAU)

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

(2Pe 1:20-21 NAU)

