

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Gal. 4:1—Though we be Lord of all, if we are still a child (in the things of God) we will be as a servant under others authority, till we grow up!

Hosea 4:6—says My people are destroyed for LACK OF KNOWLEDGE.

Lk 11:52—Jesus accused the religious leaders of His time of teaching doctrines of men and withholding the “key of knowledge” of God’s word.

Gal. 4:8-9—**having no knowledge of God** makes you a servant of the world.

Eph. 2:1-3—You, whom Jesus made alive, when you were dead (slain) by (your) trespasses and sin, you walked according to the WORLDS SYSTEM, and you were under the sway of the tendency of this present age, led by Satan (prince of power of air).

Among these we as well as you once lived and conducted ourselves in the passions of our flesh (behavior governed by our corrupt and sensual nature, obeying the impulses of the flesh and the thoughts of the mind, our cravings dictated by our senses and our dark imaginings). We were then, by nature children of God’s wrath and heirs of His indignation, LIKE THE REST OF MANKIND. Prov. 1:7—tells us that the **reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.** (see prov. 8:13)

A new born baby is an heir (completely) but he lacks in maturity and instruction.

I Peter 2:2—As newborn babes we are to **desire the sincere milk of the word that you may grow thereby.**

I Pet 1:23—we were born by the word and it is natural that we grow by the word.

Matt. 4:4—says that we do NOT live (exist, grow) by BREAD ALONE.

WHAT ARE WE TO GROW IN & HOW?

II Peter 3:18—Grow in Grace (undeserved favor, spiritual strength Rom. 5:2) and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (the Messiah).

HOW?

When we were born again, the change occurred in the center of our being, our spirit man, not in our mind.

Romans 12:2—**we are** therefore **transformed fully by the renewing of our mind**, that the spirit and mind working together (through its new attitudes and ideals) you can **prove** what is that good, and acceptable and perfect, will of God.

Isa. 55:8—11—God’s ways are higher than your ways and His thoughts are higher than your thoughts. His word is filled with His power to produce exactly what it says it will do.

When we ignore the word of God, then reason takes over. Your 5 senses then rule your spirit, fear and unbelief take over. A lack of spiritual initiative yields you useless. And it is all caused by a LOW TYPE OF FELLOWSHIP with God and His Word (i.e. no feeding on the word and its authority nor prayer)

WHY KNOWLEDGE?

II Peter 1:2-4—tells us that it is **through knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord, the **GRACE** (God’s favor) and **PEACE** (which is perfect well-being, all necessary good, all spiritual prosperity, and freedom from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts) is multiplied (not added) to us. (**OR through lack of knowledge** we perish Hos. 4:6.)

GRACE—is God’s willingness to use His ability (power) on our behalf though not deserved (that’s favor).

Lk 11:52—Jesus Woe unto you lawyers (experts in Mosaic Law), you have taken away the **KEY OF KNOWLEDGE**: you entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in you hindered (forbad). Not teaching the Word and tell others not to either.

Romans 5:2—we enter into this GRACE (state of God’s favor) by faith.

Romans 4:5—Having faith toward God causes us to be placed in right standing with God.

Romans 4:16—Inheriting the promise is the outcome of faith and depends (entirely) on faith, in order that it might be given as an act of grace (free).

GRADUATING FROM MILK TO MEAT

Hebrews 5:12-14—tells us we can’t stay on milk always—we must graduate to meat sometime—that is we must know the teaching on RIGHTEOUSNESS. Only full-grown men can eat the MEAT of the Word.

Gal 3:21—we become righteous by faith in Jesus (when born again). This righteousness could not be obtained under the Law because there was no way one could receive eternal life (that he might then be put in right standing with God).

I Cor 3:1-3—the difference between a Christian that is taking MILK VERSES one on MEAT is the baby Christian is yet carnal (fleshly) not spiritual (grown) because he walks as an unbeliever, for you are still of the flesh (under the control of ordinary impulses), as long as there are envying and jealousy and strife and divisions among you, **behaving yourselves like mere men.** **WHY? Because you are not taking your place in Christ and acting on the Word of God.**

You see it is not retained or accumulated knowledge that produces anything BUT it is knowledge **ACTED** upon which brings results and brings faith (growth).

WE BECOME A SPIRITUAL MAN BY ACTING ON THE WORD.

How do I act on the Word?

I Cor. 13:11—says when I am grown, I put away childish things. (Envy, strife, jealousy, etc.)

Romans 4:20-21—Abraham, our father of faith, he did not weaken in faith as he considered the circumstances in the natural, but He grew strong and was empowered by faith AS he gave praise and glory to God for the promise of God, being fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His Word and do what He had promised.

Welcome to HOPIC

We are excited to finally be back in the NEWLY RENOVATED KEY MIDDLE SCHOOL, at 6402 Franconia Road, Springfield, Va. Pastor Harlan & Doris Stilwell, Sr., want to invite you and your family to come and join us as we exalt and worship God in His Holy Presence.

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Our Goal and desire is the same as that of our Lord Jesus Christ, to fulfill God's end-time calling to enlarge the Kingdom of God, by reaching the multitudes with the gospel of Christ for all levels of our society. We are bringing glory and honor to the Father of our Lord Jesus by teaching and preparing God's people for works of service through the Word and Anointed Worship, through the manifested presence and revelation power of the Holy Spirit.



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Pastor Harlan & Doris Stilwell Sr.

Because of this attitude and action, God reckoned unto Abraham His Righteousness (putting him in right standing with Him). Matthew 13:30—Jesus in His teaching on the Kingdom of God, said we are to **continue to grow until the harvest.**

Eph 4:15—we are to grow up in Him in ALL things, **speaking the truth in love.**

Mk 4:27—Growth (harvest) begins\starts from planting a seed (word is seed).

II Cor 5:21—shows us when we were born again, we were created\made righteous. Kingdom of God is in you and it is not meat nor drink but it is RIGHTEOUSNESS, peace and joy.

We are to Grow in the knowledge of righteousness (our standing with the Father).

Matt. 6:30-33—seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things will then be added unto you.

WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

Romans 8:10—we have the life and nature of God in us because of His Righteousness. The Kingdom of God is in the human spirit because the King is in you.

Your spirit is designed by God to produce everything you need in this life. Search the scriptures and find out how the dominion (authority) of God operates in the earth and then you won't fret—and all things will be added unto you.

Romans 10:6-8—the righteousness which is of faith, speaketh on this wise— speaks the word of faith from the life and nature of God within us.

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