



LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION (2) SPIRITUAL INDICATORS (1) - Am I Growing Personally?

Last night we began a series of lessons dealing with going on to perfection. By studying Hebrews 5:12-6:1 we established that we are expected to grow as Christians. The rest of this meeting will be addressing some things to consider as we strive for perfection (being complete in Him).

Let's begin with a spiritual audit! 2 Corinthians 13:5 calls for us to examine ourselves.

Spiritual indicators. A standard (the Bible) that we use to measure where we are as it relates to where we ought to be in God's eyes. Consider James 1:22-25. These are indicators that can help us determine whether or not we are maturing as we ought to.

Tonight, we examine where we are as individual Christians.

I. What Is My Priority?

- a. A priority is a thing regarded as more important than another, that which is first or our focus. Matthew 6:33, cf. Matthew 10:37-38, Acts 5:29
- b. **Understanding this, what is your priority?** As I make decisions, do I genuinely consider how it will affect my standing with God? When faced with a choice between serving God or something I want to do, what typically wins out?
What if I were the rich, young ruler (Matthew 19) or Peter before the council?

II. How Much Do I Study the Bible?

- a. The Bible is the word of God! It is how God communicates with us today.
1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15; Psalm 1:1-2
- b. **Do I study the Bible as I ought to?** How much do I know of God's word? Do I have a plan to learn? Am I able to share His word with others? (1 Peter 3:15) Am I convicted? 2 Peter 1:3

III. Do I Pray as I Ought To?

- a. Prayer is the way God has provided for us to communicate with Him. A privilege that Christians enjoy – 1 John 5:14-15, 1 John 1:9, Hebrews 4:16
- b. We need to pray – Luke 11:5-10, Ephesians 6:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Even Jesus prayed!
- c. **How often do I pray?** Remember: *Seven days without prayer makes one WEAK!*

IV. Do I control my tongue?

- a. James 3:1-12 gives us a description of the power of the tongue. Proverbs 10:19
- b. Friends, words DO hurt! Words do great damage! Including our electronic words!!!!
- c. **So how well do I manage my tongue?** (James 1:19)
Do I **THINK** before I speak (Is it True, Is it Helpful, Is it Inspiring, Is it Necessary, Is it Kind)?

V. Do I understand repentance?

- a. Genuine repentance IS the changing of one's mind that leads to a change in conduct.
- b. 2 Corinthians 7:9-11 describes true repentance. Anything less will not last.
- c. Repentance must be emphasized - Both before one obeys the gospel (cf. Acts 2:38, 3:19), and as we continue to live our lives as Christians (1 John 1:9)
- d. **Do I understand repentance?** How well do I deal with sin?

VI. How much do I care about others?

- a. The Christian life is NOT just about you. Yes, you are accountable for yourself (cf. Galatians 6:5). However, we are to serve others also (Galatians 5:13). Philippians 2:3-4, etc.
- b. **Do I genuinely care about my neighbor?** Am I willing to serve and help them? Am I concerned about their spiritual wellbeing?
- c. The world we are living in desperately needs godly examples. If we are to turn our society around, it is going to happen one neighbor at a time.

These are some spiritual indicators the help us gauge where we are in relation to where we ought to be. Are we willing to listen to Him and change (Matthew 28:19-20)? Our eternity depends on it!