

Back To Basics Sanctification Pt 2

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

○ Introduction

- John Bevere uses the illustration of a fictional king who had a son but early in the boy's life he has stolen away and made to be a slave so all he's known as slavery after 20 years the Kings after searching for him finds him and brings him to the palace.
- Can you imagine what you would do that first day after only knowing slavery.
 - You are the son of the king but because of the years of slavery, You would instinctively go out and try to work the gardens get breakfast you would go out to the stalls and clean them your nature would control you.
 - What are some things that are easy to stop yourself from doing?
 - What are some things that God is still working with you about?
 - The son of a king shouldn't lower himself, feeding the pigs, cleaning stalls
 - There are some things that would be easy to stop but some things would take time.
 - Changing how we view ourselves, our life, how we view God takes time.
- We're talking about an identity issue, behavior modification
- How do we change our mindset? How do we leave behind the slave mentality and learn to live the life of a child of the king?

○ Growth

- Babies and Christians
- A baby doesn't know how to feed itself
 - Usually new believers struggle to read their bible, can't feed themselves
- Babies have to have specific food, food designed for it's growth
 - God's word is required for spiritual growth, No substitute
 - Many believers even people who've been in church for more than 10 years struggle to have God speak to them through his word.
- Babies wear themselves out easily, gets frustrated easily
 - Christians who are immature can get frustrated easily, struggle to understand
 - Christians can become malnourished spiritually, don't eat properly, no fuel
- Babies Can get hurt very easily, very fragile
 - New believers are very fragile, need supervision, protection, follow up
- Babies need interaction from their parent, study w/ interaction baby smiles
 - As a believer you rise or fall based on your relationship with God
 - Eye contact and you light up, no eye contact and you begin to stall
- The bible speaks of Christians babies
 - **1 Peter 2 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow [\[a\]](#)thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.**
- We should be progressing in our salvation, our understanding of who God is, who we are.

- How you view God and yourself should change through God's word and his presence
 - God is far from me, God isn't personal, God doesn't love me, God hates me
 - God sent his only son, so I can become a child of God
 - I am valuable to God, he gave his best
 - Different mindsets

○ Source of growth

- Babies need vitamins, nutrients, they need activity, stretch their muscles. They need constant protection and supervision in order to get strong enough, mature enough to be self reliant.
 - Every Christian is in one stage or another in their maturity.
 - Doesn't matter how many years you've attended church.
 - We're not comparing ourselves to each other, we're comparing ourselves to God's word and the life of Jesus.
- What are the sources of Growth for Christians?
 - Not rules from a church or man but truths that either empower your growth or truths that limit your growth
 - It's not a list of things to do, we're asking why should we do these things, how do they help us?
- God's presence
 - No substitute for personal experience
 - Why do we need personal experience?
 - **John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"**
 - He sets the rules, He wants personal relationship
 - Relationship that confesses, relationship that confronts, relationship that is transparent, relationship that holds you accountable. You have to go through Jesus
 - **Acts 19:13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, [a]"We [b]exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, [c]overpowered them, and prevailed against [d]them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.**
 - It's not enough to know about God, we must intimately know God.
 - There's no faking it.
 - Two types...Talking about God or talking to God.
 - Why do we need to personally experience God
 - His presence changes us. Changes our desires.
 - His spirit is life, power and victory.
 - **Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you"**
 - There are scholars who read the bible their whole life but if they don't act on it in faith and pursue God personally they won't experience life!

■ God's word

- **Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**
- **John 20:31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**
- God's word is life,
- like God's presence is essential to growth.
- God's word is how you grow roots in your faith, how you weather storms, push through difficulty, persevere through failure.
- **2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**
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- How can you trust that God stands ready to forgive you if you don't read
 - **1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**
- How can you understand position of Jesus as your redeemer, savior if you don't read
 - **1 John 2 these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**

■ God's people

- God Designed us to know him, to be in his presence
- God gave us his word to ensure that we could always know how to find him, experience him.
- God designed the church, so that individuals need each other and together they can achieve the impossible things when they are unified, full of his spirit.
 - **John 14:12 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.**
 - One way that we are able to do greater works is that we have the spirit of Christ in us, we have the power of the baptism in the holy spirit, and we have unity in the spirit.
 - As one body, in one church we can turn cities upside down for the gospel
 - As one body worldwide we can send missionaries around the world, we can reach the world with the gospel
 - One church can't do that but together God is doing it
- If we had no other reason to go on when it comes to should we gather with other believers, we have God's word commanding it.
 - **Hebrews 10:25 Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.**
 - This is not exclusively talking about gathering in a church building but it most definitely is speaking of that as well.

- Gathering can be in a home, at your work place, your family dinner
- God also designed for believers to interact and engage each other in a larger form, like church. We see it all throughout the new testament

○ **Gods part, your part**

- Submitted to God or living in the flesh
 - **James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.**
 - **To yield, resign, or surrender to power, will, or authority;**
 - If you want to mature, continue to live for Jesus you have to continually ask yourself who's in control?
 - When temptation comes, are you talking to God about it or trying to talk yourself out of it. Are you surrendered to him, engaging Jesus about it or have you removed him from the conversation completely taking control.
 - **Galatians 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**
 - Growing in Jesus is learning to know when you are in submission to God or if you are trying to live in your flesh. It's not being surprised by temptation
- Availability
 - We must give up control, learn surrender and then we must make ourselves available
 - AW Tozer said No shortcut exists. God has not bowed to our nervous haste nor embraced the methods of our machine age. It is well that we accept the hard truth now: The man who would know God must give time to Him. He must count no time wasted which is spent in the cultivation of His acquaintance.
- God will do his part, he will transform your mind through is word, he will change your desires and your identity as you encounter him, he does the heavy lifting but we must do our part
- What is our part?
 - That's where spiritual disciplines come in
 - Prayer, bible reading, attending bible studies, spending time with other believers outside of church, listening to worship music, finding a spiritual mentor
 - These acts dont fix us, save us but when we live a lifestyle with these things in our life consistently God has access and he has our surrender.