

National Ladies Camp Meeting 2018

Maturing in Christ

Introduction

It is not automatic that when a person gives his life to Christ and become born again, he eventually becomes a fully matured believer and resembling Christ in all ramifications. Just as it is not automatic that every child born by a woman will grow to become a successful adult. Some believers don't make it beyond a few months. Little wonder, Apostle Paul prayed for his children in the Lord "for Christ to be formed in them" Gal 4:19. Also, the apostle told the Ephesian Church "till we all come together in maturity and fullness of the knowledge of Christ". Hence, there is individual maturity (maturity of individual Christian) Eph 5:12 and corporate maturity (maturity of the church- collection of Christians) Eph 4:13. In this study our attention will be on the individual maturity. Let us trust God to open our eyes of understanding as we study together.

1.0 Quest and desire for spiritual growth

Spiritual growth is for those who desire it and are willing to do the needful. To grow physically, we need to eat, drink, exercise and be purposeful. So, it is in the spirit. You need to cultivate and retain the desire to grow. The goal or endpoint of Christianity is that you become like Christ in all ramifications (Rom 8:29-30) and fulfill the reason God sent you to the earth. A clear vision of this goal propels you to move in its direction. Examples – Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2), Paul - Phil. (3:9-10), Give other examples

Difference between the babe and the matured believer

- babes (malice, anger and divisions- works of the flesh), matured (have done away with childish things)
- God cannot commit things into their hands, matured (God gives them the kingdom)
- babes (Led by their senses), matured (Led by the Holy Spirit). Rom 1:12

2.0 Ingredients for spiritual growth

- The word of God (1 Peter 2:2; Ephesians 5: 12- 14; Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16, Joshua 1:8)
- Continuous heartfelt prayers (James 5:17, I Thessa. 5:17)
- Communion and fellowship with God (more than just reading scriptures and prayers, is the deeper experience of communion. Examples of Jesus, Moses and Samuel showed a depth in their personal walk)
- Christian service (individually and corporately) Rom 12: 11, Eccle 10:18.
- Covet spiritual gifts (1 Corin 12:1, 4-12; 1 Corin 14:1 -3, 12)

4.0 Hinderances to growth

Every believer needs to be careful to keep away from things and persons that quench the fire of spiritual fervency and drive. Examples of such fire extinguishers are: Sin, Distractions (cares of the world) 1John 2:15, Old friends (2 Corinthians 6:14-18, I Corin 15:33), Other unserious believers (Prov 13:20)

5.0 Pursuit of Excellence

Godliness is not synonymous with mediocrity. Hence, growing must be with a sense of excellence and doing things well. (Mark 7:37, Mark 6:2) Jesus epitomizes the wisdom of God. He actually is the wisdom and power of God. Everything He did made people to marveled. So should we, as we undertake assignments for God (Eccle 9:10)

6.0 Benefits of growth

- You will have more kingdom benefits (Matthew 25: 21-23, 29)
- You will be more pleasing to God (Hebrew 13:21, 1 John 3:22)
- Assurance of a place with him in eternity
- You will fulfill your destiny

Conclusion

It is great to know the Lord. It is greater to be maturing in Him. It is only those who endures to the end that will receive the crown. One sure way to ensure our place in eternity by His side is to keep advancing in our walk with Him and service. Waxing strong daily. You can pray for God to revive your zeal if your fire is cold and extinguished. We must be following hard after the Lord. Pray that you will keep advancing in Him.