**Truth Sowers Life Group**

Sunday June 24, 2012

**Spiritual Growth**

**Hebrews 5:12 - 14**

12You have had enough time that by now you should be teachers. But you need someone to teach you again the first lessons of God’s teaching. You still need the teaching that is like milk. You are not ready for solid food. 13Anyone who lives on milk is still a baby and is not able to understand much about living right. 14But solid food is for people who have grown up. From their experience they have learned to see the difference between good and evil.

Introduction: In our last lesson we talked about the “milk” and the “meat” of the Word. Every scripture in the Bible can be meat or milk but it depends on your “level of perception” of that scripture which determines whether it is meat or milk. There are two words in the Greek for “word.” One is “logos” which means “the written word” just like the words you read in a book. The second word is “rhema.” It means, “the God breathed, God inspired word.” As we study the Bible the “logos” will drop into our spirit and become “rhema.”

The people that the author of Hebrews was writing too had been believers long enough (12You have had enough time that by now you should be teachers) that they should have been giving back to the body of Christ and to the world.

1. We are all born as babies.
2. The length of time one has been a believer does not mean they are grown up spiritually.
3. We determine our spiritual growth.

**John 1:12**

But some people did accept him. They believed in him, and he gave them the right to become children of God.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name

**Illustration: When you were born, you were immediately a child of your parents. But what if your parents sent you away after you were born and never saw you again? You would still be their child but they would not KNOW you and KNOW your ways. When you have a child and you raise that child, nurturing them and teaching them. They learn your ways and your precepts and become like you. Many Christians believe but never get to know their Father and what it means to be a child of God.**

1. When we eat the Word, we learn who we are “in Christ.”
   1. We are the “righteousness of God.”

2 **Corinthians 5:21**

God made him who had no sin to be sinfor us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

* 1. Righteous means, “Being able to stand in the Father’s presence without the sense of guilt or inferiority.”
  2. We WERE sinners, now we are the Righteousness of God.
  3. **Romans 8:1 NKJV**

*There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

**Phillips New Testament**

No condemnation now hangs over the head of those who were “in” Jesus Christ. For the new spiritual principle of life “in” Christ lifts me out of the old vicious circle of sin and death.

* 1. We should go to God boldly, with confidence.

**Hebrews 4:16 Common English Bible**

Finally, let’s draw near to the throne of favor with confidence so that we can receive mercy and find grace when we need help.

* 1. We should not live with a sin consciousness any longer.
  2. God has not only forgiven our sins but He has forgotten them!

**Psalm 103:12**

As far as the east is from the west, *So* far has He removed our transgressions from us.

**Hebrews 10:17**

“Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

1. How do we act when we grow up spiritually and know who we are?
   1. We enter into His rest.

**Hebrews 4:1 Common English Version**

The promise to enter the place of rest is still good, and we must take care that none of you miss out.

* + 1. We know that He is bigger than all our circumstance!
    2. We are no longer afraid of lack!
    3. We are no longer afraid of sickness!
    4. We are no longer afraid of circumstances!
    5. We are no longer afraid of demons!
  1. We understand that Jesus intercedes for us and what that means.
     1. **Hebrews 7:25**

Therefore He is able also to save to the uttermost (completely, perfectly, finally, and for all time and eternity) those who come to God through Him, since He is always living to make petition to God *and* intercede with Him *and* intervene for them.

**What does Jesus do when He intercedes for us?**

He stands on our behalf.

He will rebuke the “devourer” for our sakes. **Malachi 3:11**

* 1. We produce the fruit of the spirit.

**Galatians 5:22, 23**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

* 1. We produce the fruit of righteousness.

**Isaiah 32:17 Amplified**

And the effect of righteousness will be peace [internal and external], and the result of righteousness will be quietness and confident trust forever.

1. Peace (internal and external)
2. Quietness
3. Confident trust (faith)
4. Will you make the choice to start feeding yourself the Word of God weekly? Daily?
   1. Be a “doer” of the Word.

**James 1:22 Amplified**

But be doers of the Word [obey the message], and not merely listeners to it, betraying yourselves [into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth].

* 1. Wisdom is “knowledge that is acted upon.”
     1. You must know what the Word of God says to be a “doer.”
  2. We are qualified because of Christ’s work in our hearts.

“God does not call the equipped, He equips the called!”

**2 Corinthians 3:4, 5**

Such is the reliance and confidence that we have through Christ toward and with reference to God. 5Not that we are fit (qualified and sufficient in ability) of ourselves to form personal judgments or to claim or count anything as coming from us, but our power and ability and sufficiency are from God.

**Conclusion:** We must all make the effort to study God’s Word and to not just be “hearers” of it but to be “doers” of His Word. As we do this, we will begin to bear the fruit of the spirit and the fruit of righteousness. We will be able to give to those in the Body of Christ and to the world instead of always taking. As we feed on the Word, it is like a mother eating well balanced, nutritional meals so that she can produce milk to feed to her baby. We grow up as young Christians and then nurture young Christians and they grow up and nurture young Christians and the cycle continues.

2 Corinthians 8:9, 10

8And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need, be self sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation]. 9As it is written, He [the benevolent person] scatters abroad; He gives to the poor; His deeds of justice and goodness and kindness and benevolence will go on and endure forever!