

God's Word and Your Spiritual Growth
(Selected Scriptures)

I. The Source of Sanctification

- A. Scripture is the source of all sanctifying truth.
- B. God's redeeming saving love is perfected in the person who fully obeys His truth.
- C. There are warnings from the beginning of the Bible to the end of the Bible to stay away from false teaching because anything that corrupts your pure understanding of the truth halts your sanctification and your spiritual growth.
- D. The Word is the truth that saves...
 - 1. It is the truth that sanctifies.
 - 2. It is the truth that makes you wise unto salvation.
 - 3. It is the truth that makes you perfect, thoroughly equipped for all good works.
- E. Nothing can do the work that the truth does.
 - 1. There is no sanctifying power in human intuition.
 - 2. There is no sanctifying power in insight.
 - 3. There is no sanctifying power in experience.
 - 4. It is all in the Scripture.

II. The Stages of Sanctification

- A. 1 John chapter 2:13-14 is John's paradigm for spiritual growth.
 - 1. Fathers, young men, and children.
 - 2. There are stages of spiritual growth here.
- B. Little children.
 - 1. It refers to children in elemental teaching.
 - 2. And what is characteristic of a spiritual child?
 - 3. He says, "You know the Father."
 - 4. It has its problems, however
 - a. Being a spiritual child is to be immature.
 - b. It is to be unable to have your senses exercised to discern (Heb 5)
 - c. it has nothing to do with how long you've been a Christian.
 - d. It has to do with how much exposure you've had to the truth.
- C. Young men.
 - 1. The difference between a spiritual babe and a spiritual young man is strength.
 - 2. That strength is born in the knowledge of the Word of God.
 - 3. When you get to being a spiritual young man and you are strong in sound doctrine, you have triumphed over Satan.
- D. Fathers
 - 1. You've gone just beyond knowing the doctrines of Scripture to become enthralled with God.
 - 2. Your Christian life is defined by your adoration and passion for God.

III. The Secret to Sanctification

- A. Cognition...it starts with understanding what the Bible says and what it means.
 - 1. You start with finding out what the Bible says.
 - 2. It's about understanding truth so that you can obey it and praise God for it.
- B. Conviction.
 - 1. Your life is a product of what you believe.
 - 2. What you really believe is true is how you live.
- C. Affection.
 - 1. You begin to understand what the Bible says.
 - 2. It begins to form your convictions.
 - 3. Then it becomes your affection.
 - 4. Spiritual growth comes when you have the affection for the Word.

V. Conclusion

- A. You don't read the Bible as education...as curiosity...as intellectual stimulation or to win an argument.
- B. You read the Bible like an infant, hungry to suck all the nourishment out of it that it desperately needs.