

Ingredients For Maturity

(Scriptures: Ezra 7:1-10)

Introduction:

1. All Christians must move toward maturity.
2. 1 Peter 2:1-2
 - *Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*
3. 2 Peter 3:18
 - *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.*
4. One is either growing or dying.
5. We would be concerned about a little child who did not grow.
6. Let us examine what the Bible tell us about the ingredients for spiritual maturity: Ezra 7:10
 - *For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.*

We must prepare our hearts.

A. Why?

B. Proverbs 23:7

- *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he. . .*

C. Proverbs 4:23

- *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

D. Jesus told us at least two ways to guard our heart.

1. Luke 8:18

- *Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.*

2. Mark 4:24

- *And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.*

E. Why should we prepare the heart?

Mark 12:30

- *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*

Romans 6:17

- *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

F. Are you preparing your heart?

What do you allow to enter your heart?

We are to seek the law of the Lord.

A. How?

B. 2 Timothy 2:15

- *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

C. Psalm 119:10

- *With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.*

D. Warning for lack of knowledge of God's Word.

Hosea 4:6

- *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

E. Are you seeking & studying God's Word?

How knowledgeable are you when it comes to the Word of God?

We must do the commandments of our Lord.

A. The 3rd ingredient in attaining spiritual maturity.

B. 1 John 2:3-4

- *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

C. Luke 6:46

- *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

D. James 1:22

- *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

E. How do you rate yourself when it comes to obeying the Word of God?

Have you obeyed the gospel of our Lord? If not, why not?

We must share the truth with others.

A. Mark 16:15

- *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

B. 2 Timothy 2:2

- *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

C. Teaching & sharing God's Word to others are just one of our duties and responsibilities as a Christian.

D. An important ingredient in attaining spiritual maturity.

E. Have you taught someone lately?
Are you sharing God's Word to others?

Conclusion:

1. If you are not growing, you are dying.
2. Your growth or lack of it is something you cannot hide.
3. Come judgment day, it will be too late to worry about growing spiritually.
4. Where are you in the sight of God Almighty?
5. The rich man in Luke 16 was worried about his brethren back on the earth.
He wanted them to grow into what God wanted them to be.

However, for him it was too late.

6. You do not want to wait and be like him.

7. It is your choice!