

Finding the middle ground: Learning to Sacrifice Self Without Compromising Faith

Part 4: A Mature Body

Lesson 2- Understanding the Power of the Holy Spirit

Story: When children are born they are a part of us but as they mature they begin to look, sound, and act like us even more- they begin to reflect who we are as parents. This is how we should be as Christians when we mature, but that only comes through understanding who our father is, what his expectations are, and understanding our identity in him.

Example: Mothers that call themselves fat (fat or not) often project a negative body image on their daughter.

Parents that value education, financial stability, commitment in marriage, etc. often times have children that reflect those same habits. Why? Because over time (consciously or subconsciously) the child is learning to imitate the parents behaviors.

***Do as I say not as I do...shouldn't it be both? With God it is, but we must take the time to understand Him if we want to mature.**

Get Understanding

Proverbs 4:7- Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

Example: Grandfather and Money- save a dime a day

How do we get understanding?

Proverbs 3:5-6- **Trust** in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways **acknowledge** Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Acknowledge (Concordance H3045)

(Biblical Dictionary): to know

A. (Qal)

i.to know

- a. to know, learn to know
- b. to perceive
- c. to perceive and see, find out and discern
- d. to discriminate, distinguish
- e. to know by experience
- f. to recognise, admit, acknowledge, confess
- g. to consider

ii.to know, be acquainted with

iii.to know (a person carnally)

iv.to know how, be skilful in

v.to have knowledge, be wise

B. (Niphal)

.to be made known, be or become known, be revealed

i.to make oneself known

ii.to be perceived

iii.to be instructed

- C. (Piel) to cause to know
- D. (Poal) to cause to know
- E. (Pual)

.to be known

i.known, one known, acquaintance (participle)

- F. (Hiphil) to make known, declare
- G. (Hophal) to be made known
- H. (Hithpael) to make oneself known, reveal oneself

Psalm 119:104- Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

mandate (of God; plural only, collectively, for the Law):—commandment, precept, statute.

*Through studying God's commandments and his word we gain understanding. By acknowledging him in all we do (despite our human understanding) we demonstrate our maturity and understanding of God.

What should a mature reflection look like?

Understanding the Power of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 2 (Read) NLT

(Vs 1-4) What we do does not depend on Human wisdom but on the power of the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:12-17

(Vs 5) Faith/Trust is rooted in God's power

(Vs 7) Mature Believers understand the mysteries of God and things that were once hidden are now revealed.

No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God[fn]—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began.

FN: Greek *But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery.*

Greek Lexicon: 1) A hidden secret thing, not obvious to the understanding 2) A hidden purpose our counsel, secret will:

Matthew 13:34-35- Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables. This fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet: "I will speak to you in parables. I will explain things hidden since the creation of the world.

Psalm 78: 1-2 O my people, listen to my instructions.

Open your ears to what I am saying, for I will speak to you in a parable.

I will teach you hidden lessons from our past— stories we have heard and **known**, stories our ancestors handed down to us.

(Known, Concordance H3045)

(Vs 9-10) **Must be revealed** by the Holy Spirit

(Vs 11-12) **Can only be revealed** by the Holy Spirit

*Not that he wont use a person to communicate but the revelation will come from the Spirit.

Romans 8:18-23

Example: Peter's Revelation of Christ as Messiah

(Vs 13) Our words reflect the Holy Spirit

When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.[fn]

FN: Or *explaining spiritual truths in spiritual language*, or *explaining spiritual truths to spiritual people*.

(Vs 14-15) All believers CAN understand but there is No understanding without the Holy Spirit

But people who aren't spiritual [fn] can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others.

FN: Or *who don't have the Spirit*; or *who have only physical life*.

(Vs 16) For, "Who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?"[fn]But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ

FN: Isaiah 40: 13- Who is able to advise the Spirit of the Lord? Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him?

Isaiah 55: 8-9

Challenge for the Week:

Reflective Questions: What does it mean to use the Spirit's words to explain Spiritual truths? What is a spiritual language? Why is it that only believers can understand and receive these truths but sounds foolish to men?