

It Is Time to Grow Up

1 Peter 2.1-3

¹ Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it **you may grow up in your salvation**, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Very often, tense times make tough believers. It is also true that tense times require mature behavior from believers, and Peter, knowing this, addresses the subject of spiritual growth towards maturity.

Four Essentials for Spiritual Life

- ***First, the proclamation of the Word of God.***

1 Peter 1.24-25

- ***Second, a vital relationship with the Son of God.***

Taste and see that the LORD is good;

blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Psalm 34.8; 1 Peter 2.3

- ***Third, an acceptance of the eternal life of God.***

1 Peter 1.23; 2 Peter 1.4

- ***Fourth, an awareness of the people of God.***

1 Peter 1.22

Four Essentials for Spiritual Growth

- ***First, we need to be where we hear the Word of God.***

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3.16-17

- ***Second, we need a growing relationship with the Son of God.***

2 Peter 3.18

- ***Third, growth is created as we experience life.***

- ***Fourth, growth is created by relating to the people of God.***

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10.24-25

Two Essentials for Continued Spiritual Growth

- ***First, we need to regularly look at our behavior.***

We can recognize our behavior through the Word of God (Matthew 16.21-23).

We can recognize our behavior through the example of the Lord Jesus (Luke 5.1-11).

We can recognize our behavior by confrontation with believers (Galatians 2.11).

- ***Second, we need to be willing to modify our behavior.***

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

1 Peter 2.1

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