

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - December 23, 2021

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**Title: "Maturing More and More By Going and Growing Deeper
Into The Word of God"**

Scripture Reference: 2 Peter 3:18

**"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."**

I. Introduction

A. The Bible is the most wonderful Book ever put together. It is a treasure chest of truth for:

- Reviving the soul
- Making wise the simple
- Giving joy to the heart
- Giving light to the eyes
- It is more precious than gold
- The Bible is sweeter than honey

B. For all of those who will obey the Bible's teachings, there is a great reward. The storehouse of wisdom and the abundant riches God has provided in His Word are available to every person who will trust, believe, and obey the Sovereign God of both heaven and earth, the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. While trusting, believing, and obeying the Lord, meditation and prayer are two keys which unlock the storehouse of God's Word.

D. As you continue to walk faithfully with Christ, you may wonder what God's plan and purpose are for your life, how you should walk by faith, and what God desires to see in your life? During our study over the next few Bible Study sessions, we will cover:

- Maturing in Christ
- Spiritual Warfare
- Unwavering Faith
- Knowing God's will
- Walking as a servant

II. Application

A. For many years, I have and will continue to encourage those under my leadership, to be a daily Bible reader. Coupled with that, I would like to encourage you to memorize Scripture.

B. You will find that memorizing Scripture will be greatly beneficial to your spiritual maturity and growth as you obey and faithfully walk with the Lord. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed are thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes." (Psalm 119:11-12)

III. Principles for Memorizing Scripture

- A. As you start to memorize a verse or verses:
1. Read the context of the verse(s) in your bible. This means reading several verses listed both before and after the verse or verses you desire to memorize.

Comments:

- (1) This will help you to understand the setting of the verse(s).
 - (2) It is also extremely helpful to write out the verse(s). This deepens the impression of the verse(s) in your mind.
- B. Strive to get a clear understanding of what each verse actually means. You may need to consult a reliable Bible Commentary.
- C. Read the verse(s) through several times thoughtfully, aloud. This will help you grasp the verse(s) as a whole. Each time you read it, say the topic, and reference (i.e., Trusting God; name the Book

(e.g., Proverbs); Chapter (i.e., Chapter 3); and then the verse or verses (e.g., verses 5 and 6).

D. Ask God to allow the Holy Spirit to help you to be successful in your Scripture memory.

E. Finally, **REVIEW, REVIEW, REVIEW** the passages.

F. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1-4). Jesus gave them a pattern that began with praise and adoration and ended with supplication. Some of you will remember the acronym (**ACTS**) that I gave you many years ago as a pattern for prayer.

1. **Adoration**: Acknowledging God's character and attributes.
 - a. 1 Chronicles 29:11
 - b. Psalm 145:1-3
2. **Confession**: Confessing your sins to God.
 - a. Psalm 32:5
 - b. Job 42:5-6
3. **Thanksgiving**: Expressing thanks for things for which you
Are grateful.
 - a. Ephesians 5:20
 - b. Psalm 100:4
4. **Supplication**: Asking God for things.
 - a. Matthew 7:7-8
 - b. James 4:2

"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving."
(Colossians 4:2)

IV. The Joy of Answered Prayer

A. It is a great encouragement to see your prayers answered. Recording (writing them down) as to how God has answered your

prayers, alerts us to how God is working and reminds us to be thankful and grateful.

B. We can expect answers to our prayers when they are in line with His will (1 John 5:14-15) - "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

C. When you pray, please remember the following: In order for prayer to be heard, there must be a forsaking of sin. "If I regard iniquity (i.e., cherish or cling to sin) in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." (Psalm 66:18)

D. This is why it is so vitally important that as Christians, as we walk faithfully with the Lord and desire to have our prayers answered, we must fully embrace the following: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

E. If you follow all of the above biblical admonitions, then follow the counsel found in Hebrews 4:16 - "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

F. I would like to offer you the following, and please, do not view this as a burden, but rather a blessing as you trust the Lord.

G. Start a Prayer Journal in which you write down, perhaps not every prayer request, but perhaps only selected ones (you determine). When you do so, be specific when you record it and include the date you wrote it down.

H. Leave space after your entry, and as you faithfully await God's answer, continue to meditate on the goodness and faithfulness of the Lord. After God answers your prayer request, write down the date and what the answer involved.

Comments:

(1) I can hear someone saying - "That sound like too much work!"

(Well, you decide.)

- (2) Recording your prayer requests and answers can be a great source of encouragement to your faith and an even more consistent prayer life.

V. Summary

A. My prayer is that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will continue to sustain you in every area of your life, as you mature more and more in your Christian walk of faith.

C. Let us now participate in the weekly portion of our study sessions where we fill in the blank spaces to the biblical passages that follow. Remembering that all passages are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"Let all that _____ thee _____ and be _____ in thee: And let such as _____ thy _____ say continually, Let God be _____."

[Psalm 70:4]

"But it is good for me to _____ near to God: I have put my _____ in the Lord God, that I may _____ all thy _____."

[Psalm 73:28]

"_____ me, O God, and know my _____: _____ me and know my _____: And see if there be any _____ in me, and _____ me in the way _____."

[Psalm 139:23-24]

"All the _____ of a man are _____ in his _____ eyes; but the Lord _____ the spirits. _____ thy works unto the _____, and thy _____ shall be _____."

[Proverbs 16:23]

“There is a way that _____ right unto _____, but the _____ thereof are the _____ of _____.”

[Proverbs 16:25]

Thank you for being a part of another Bible Study session and I pray that you have been blessed. Please feel free to share what you have learned with others and don't forget to pray.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin