

PROGRESSIVE PREPARATION FOR GOD'S PURE & MATURE CHURCH

Progress of maturity
What? Why? How?

When we hear prophetic Word

Cool theme / phrase

I don't really understand

Does it apply to me?



WOW what a great promise!

God is doing something great!

I must take hold of this Word!



Summary

- 1) God expects His Church to progress spiritually
- GROWTH
- 2) God wants His Church to be prepared
- BE READY
- 3) God wants His Church to be pure
- HOLY
- 4) God wants His Church to mature
- Fruitfulness



Heb 5:12 - 6:1-9

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.



Heb 5:12 - 6:1-9

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, **let us go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, **if they fall away**, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.



Heb 5:12 - 6:1-9

For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.



1 Cor 3:1-3

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?



Phil 3:12-14

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



1) What is Progression?

- **Have a goal (without vision people perish – Prov 29:18)**
- **Are we heading in the right direction? Mature onto...**
 - Childishness to mature (1 Cor 13:11, 14:20, Eph 4:14-15)
 - Milk to meat
 - Foolishness unto wise
 - Carnal/flesh/self to spiritual (Gal 5:13-26)
 - Failures to victory (overcoming sin)



1) Spiritual progression

2 Pet 1:5-9

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith
to virtue
to knowledge
to self-control
to perseverance
to godliness
and to brotherly kindness
virtue,
knowledge,
self-control,
perseverance,
godliness,
brotherly kindness,
love.



2) Why do we Progress?

2 Pet 1:5-9

For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



2) Why do we Progress?

Isa 60:1-3

² For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
And deep darkness the people;
But the Lord will arise over you,

¹ Arise, shine;

For your light has come!

And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

And His glory will be seen upon you.

³ The Gentiles shall come to your light,
And kings to the brightness of your rising.

CONTRAST



2) Why do we Progress?

Warning against lukewarmness

Rev 3:15-16 - I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

1 John 2:15-16 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.



2) Why do we Progress?

Warning against lukewarmness

Matt 7:21-23 - Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Isa 29:13 - The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught."



3) How do we progress?

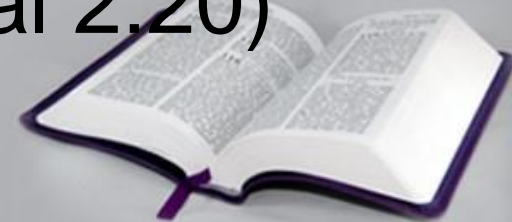


Life that wins

Do you know the life that wins? Are you ashamed of the kind of Christian life you live? Have you failed so terribly in your striving for victory that you cry out, “Wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me . . . ?” (Rom. 7.24) Be assured that your salvation is at hand: “thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (v.25). For the life that wins is **not attained, but obtained.**

It is **not a life changed,** but rather a **life exchanged.**

It is **not suppression, only expression.** It is frankly not in you yourself, because it is in Christ who lives in you (Gal 2:20)



Life that wins

The life which God gives and you receive at the time you believe in His Son Jesus Christ is such a life. It is a life that overcomes sin, provides intimate communion with God, and is full of satisfaction and power. It is already in you, waiting to be explored by you. The secret towards experiencing its power is to let go of yourself and let Christ live instead of you. This requires a childlike faith. Then shall you more than conquer through Him who loves you.



a) Evaluate and Repent – Chapter 1 (failures)

- 1) Sins of the spirit = Pride, jealousy, unbelief, fault finding**
- 2) Sins of the flesh = adultery, unrestrained eyes**
- 3) Sins of the mind = wandering mind, unclean thoughts, doubts**
- 4) Sins of the body = overemphasis on eating, sleeping, hygiene**
- 5) Sins of disposition = Inherent qualities or characteristics**
- 6) No heart to keep God's Word**
- 7) Failure to render to God His due**
- 8) Unrepentant of sins that require confession (iniquity)**



Conclusion

- **A life of victory (progression) is possible!**
- **Be honest to God and not deceiving ourselves.**
- **Be hungry (desperate & desire) the victory.**
- **Receive the victory in Jesus (asking and waiting)**
 - “Jesus You are my ...
Lord work for me, through me and in me”
- **Thank and praise Him for the victory**

