

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, April 29, 2018
Can I Talk to You Like Grownups?
1: Motivated for Maturity

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3 / 1 Corinthians 2:5-7

For 2018, the Lord told us to emphasize three things: Personal purity, spiritual maturity, supernatural power. These three go together. The outcome of personal holiness and corporate maturity, is a kind of supernatural power not seen since the early church.

As we began our quest for personal purity, we looked at the awfulness of sin, and then the amazing finished work of Christ in His death and resurrection (Easter) but now we must move on to the wonderful way God has dealt with sin's power in our lives – we need to grow up!

We live in an information age. If information could keep us right, then no one would ever miss God's desire.

Here's the truth: Information without revelation is legalism or mental assent. Knowing the rule is insufficient. A passionate desire to please the rule-giver comes by revelation. Knowing about God's promise is frustration. Receiving God's promise requires revelation.

1) Salvation is a beginning, not an end

- a) Both of our text passages give us some insights
- b) 1 Peter 2:2 God expects us to grow by hungering after His Word
- c) 1 Corinthians 2:6-7 There is a difference in how we relate to mature believers versus babes and unbelievers
- d) **The questions:**
 - i) What is a mature believer?
 - ii) Do I want to be one?
 - iii) Where am I now?
 - iv) What am I aiming for?
 - v) How do I start?

2) Spiritual growth is a worthy passion

- a) Galatians 5:16, 25 **If you are fulfilling the lust of the flesh, then you are not walking in the Spirit!**
- b) We have the Spirit, but if we don't live in Him, we are like the disciples before the crucifixion: John 16:12-13 You can't bear the now
 - i) 1 Corinthians 2:6 and following. Note 3:3.

- ii) Hebrews 5:11 - 6:1 So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding.

- c) There are some promises that only growth can reveal to us. If He wants it for me, then I want it!!!! Let's move on!!!

3) Motivation for Maturity

- a) **Promises:** There are some things we can never receive if we don't grow. 2 Corinthians 7:1

- b) **Fear of the Lord:** Those who don't grow don't realize, or don't care, that they will stand before The Lord and give account.. 2 Corinthians 5:9-11

- c) **We can be like Him!** 1 John 3:2-3

- i) The reality of His return. He is coming.

- ii) **The hope of being like Jesus!** Luke 6:40 NLT Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.

- (1) Here's our general definition of spiritual maturity: Being like Jesus.

- (2) You cannot be like Jesus, or even please Him, without a supernatural change. That requires more than information, it requires revelation. – something that happens in your heart.

- d) This week's project: **Let's pray daily for revelation** of what He's done for us, who we are, and what He wants for us. Ephesians 1: 15-23 / Colossians 1:9-12

Pray this for yourself every day this week:

I pray that my love will overflow more and more, and that I will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. (10) For I want to understand what really matters, so that I may live a pure and blameless life until the day of Christ's return. (11) May I always be filled with the fruit of my salvation—the righteous character produced in my life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

Philippians 1:9-11 NLT (edited)