

Now that a new year is approaching, we always try to look at what we need to change. If we are going to live a life that is pleasing to God, we need to change ourselves by growing up into Him.

The Holy Spirit speaks to us about being children no more. He says, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" (Ephesians 4:15-16 KJV).

**We begin our fast together
on January 2nd.**

When God created man, He created him after their likeness (Genesis 1:26). If we are going to grow spiritually, there are some things that we must do in order to meet the goal.

Grow Up

At the conclusion of 40 years, I want to talk about some NEW things that God is doing in this new year.



1. We must cooperate with the Holy Spirit's work. You cannot do you and grow spiritually. Ephesians 4:21-24, says "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."
 - a. We must choose to let go of old ways of acting.
 - b. We must change the way we think.
 - c. We must put on the character of Christ by developing new and Godly habits.

Scripture says in Romans 12:2, "and be not conformed to this world, but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable will of God." **Don't let another year go by; don't continue to walk in the same patterns; don't waste another year.**

Change does not happen automatically or just because you want it to. You have to do something. Remember one of the definitions of insanity. It has been said that to continue to do the same thing and expect at different result is INSANITY.

2. God uses His Word, people, and circumstances to mold us. Change will not come without a challenge. The challenge will come from people, at times. At other times, it will come from circumstances. You and I must apply His Word to those circumstances in order to have lasting change.
 - a. God's Word provides the truth we need to grow.
 - b. God's people provide the support that we need to grow. This is why your relationships with mature Christians will always be attacked by the devil.
 - c. Circumstances provide the environment that we need to practice Christlikeness.
3. Becoming like Christ is a long, slow process of growth.
 - a. Ephesians 4:13 (KJV) says, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ"
 - b. 1 John 3:2 (KJV) says, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."
 - c. Romans 12:2 (KJV) says, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God".

Usually, the first few days of our fast/consecration are the most difficult. Because your flesh will cry out the most in the beginning, I encourage you to stand strong. Meditate on these scriptures for the first week. These are the days that we find out how strong we are spiritually. If you are not giving up something that does not mean anything to you, then be assured, it does not mean anything to God.

Our Guide To Praying

As we usually do, we will abstain from carbonated drinks, coffee, tea, and sweets. Try to avoid these items and those that resemble sweets like sugar-free cookies, etc. during the remainder of our consecration. You may drink 16oz of pure fruit juice, pure vegetable juice, or gatorade at your midday mealtime. If you are on medical treatment that would prohibit you from fasting in this way, please call the office and ask for Loretta Lloyd, and she will assist you with a modified program. We ask that you eat your one meal a day after 6PM, after weekly services, and after prayer times.

We are asking all that can to come and meet us in prayer on Mondays at 7PM and Fridays at 7:30 PM.

Fast in secret. Please do not stop taking medications. You may need a modified fast for those requiring food.