

The Keys To Spiritual Growth

Fundamental Principles For A Living Faith

Lesson Four: The Christian's Need For Quality Environment

Introduction:

1. Spiritual maturity is necessary in the development of growing faith.
2. A reading of **Hebrews 5:14** reveals, "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."
3. In the first three lessons we noticed the importance of heart (soil) condition or the Christians attitude toward the word of God, and then the need to be exposed to the Light (Jesus), and then the importance of receiving Living Water, and or spiritual nourishment.
4. In this fourth and final lesson in this study series we'll examine the Christians need for quality environment (air, oxygen, and or climate).

Discussion:

I. Assembling With The People Of God.

- A. Peter taught, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of _____ may come from the presence of the Lord" (**Acts 3:19**).

1. God is fully aware of our need for refreshing.
2. Our environment in which we will thrive spiritually must be taken seriously!

- B. What do we find first century Christians doing in **Acts 20:7**? _____

- C. For Class Discussion #1: What are some blessings and benefits of being in the worship assembly? _____

II. Evaluating The Company We Keep.

- A. What did Paul say about keeping evil company (**1 Cor. 15:33**)? _____

- B. Who is the "blessed man" in **Psalms 1:1**? _____

C. For Class Discussion #2: How can the company we keep affect our spiritual growth?

III. Keeping The Church Pure.

A. Read **1 Corinthians 5:1-2** and explain the situation within the church at Corinth:

1. What was Paul concerned about when he said, "Your glorying *is* not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?" (**1 Cor. 5:6**)? _____

2. Three reasons to address sin in the midst of the church:

- a. Reason #1: For the spiritual well-being of the sinner (**vs. 1-5**).
- b. Reason #2: For the spiritual well-being of the church (**vs. 6-8**).
- c. Reason #3: For the spiritual well-being of the world (**vs. 9-13**).

B. The New Testament reveals there is "one body" (**Eph. 4:4**) and the one body is the church (**Col. 1:18**).

1. What does the "one body" have many of according to **1 Corinthians 12:12**? _____

2. What are we to for one another according to **Romans 15:14**? And explain what that entails: _____

3. What are we to do for one another according to **Hebrews 3:13**? And explain what that entails: _____

C. For Class Discussion #3: What are some things I must do in my OWN life, living, and service to help keep the church pure? _____

Conclusion:

Your **soil** (heart) condition matters! You need exposure to the **Light** (Jesus)! You need Living **Water** (spiritual nourishment)! Our **environment** (climate) factors in our spiritual growth.