

Wednesday Word

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1 Corinthians 13:9-11 “For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I reasoned like a child, I thought like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.”

I will never forget the day I earned my driver’s license. I had just turned 17 and had finally finished drivers’ education classes. I was very nervous about the test, mainly parallel parking. I took the test and had such a great score the instructor told me I didn’t even have to attempt to parallel park, and I would still pass. I made the attempt anyway and let’s just say I got half score on that portion. However, my score was overall high enough and I left the DMV with license in hand.

This would be the first time I ever drove alone in a vehicle without a parent or driving instructor. My mom handed me the keys, gave me a curfew and off I went. I will never forget the absolute freedom I felt driving up and down the roads of University Place. Not going anywhere in particular, just enjoying the fact I could choose which street, which lane and what destination all alone. I felt as if my whole life was now opening to me bigger than it ever had before. As to be expected the newness of my freedom wore off after a while and now driving had become a necessity and not an adrenaline rush of newfound freedom. Driving was now a discipline and necessity for my world to function. I had to get a job to pay for fuel and insurance and I had to learn how to do repairs.

I believe some of these same principles apply to my faith journey. I want the freedom that comes from being a mature follower of Jesus Christ. I want to be used by him in new ways and I want new revelation from His Word and to engage with a deeper sense of His presence in Worship. But once I reach these places in my spiritual growth, I will need the discipline to maintain them.

Spiritual maturity is so much about disciplining myself to maintain and cultivate that which God has entrusted me with. I realize that I need the Lord’s guidance and comfort in every area of my life. It is my job to stay close to Him and not His job to chase me when I wonder off.

I believe, as I stated on Sunday, that God is leading Setting the Standard of Spiritual Maturity in our walks with Him. That he is calling us to deeper places in prayer, more insight into His Word, and greater fruits of the Spirit from the disciplines He develops on us. While righteous maturity may not always be easy, there is an eternal joy that comes from our holy disciplines. We will be energized in prayer, we will be amazed at his word, we will be undone in worship, we will be set free during our confessions. All these things and more God will lead us into as we are Setting the Standard for Spiritual and Righteous Maturity.

Let's commit to these disciplines together this year!

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric