

Homebuilder's Class

Personal Spiritual Development (PSD): Part 1

Text: Matthew 5:4 | Jude 16-25 | 1 Corinthians 3:1

Intro:

What is Personal Spiritual Development (PSD)?

Taking personal responsibility for your growth.

Giving attention to the spiritual man.

Growing, advancing, and progressing in your spiritual life.

- I. What is the foundation of PSD? **Matthew 5:4**
 - A. The Sermon on the Mount is the true Christian Manifesto.
 1. A "manifesto" is defined as "a public declaration, usually of a prince or sovereign, showing his intentions and explaining his motives".
 2. The Beatitude Life and the Sermon on the Mount are not for casual Christianity.
 3. The Sermon on the Mount can only be lived by a person committed to PSD.
 - B. The first beatitude is the foundation for all that follow.
 1. The poor in spirit is the opposite of being self-sufficient.
 2. Being poor in spirit is the opposite of pride.
 3. PSD begins with humility.
 4. Major ingredients in PSD are serious prayer and exercise in the Word of God, but both of these are neglected and ignored by those who possess a sense of pride and self-sufficiency.
- II. Acceptance of personal responsibility. **Jude 16-25**
 - A. The Holy Ghost makes us personally responsible.
 1. Jude warns them about false teachers and those who are deceived in verses 16-19.
 2. In verse 20-21 we read, "But ye, beloved..." we, who are the beloved of God, have a definite responsibility.
 - a. "Building up yourselves on your most holy faith..." the pronoun is you.
 - b. "Praying in the Holy Ghost..." again the pronoun is *you*.
 - c. "Keep yourselves in the love of God..." "again *you* keep yourself".
 - B. PSD requires we reject the typical mentality of the world.
 1. We must reject the tendency to blame others.
 2. We must reject the tendency to lean on the spirituality of others.
 - C. "Your ability to be used by God to the maximum will be directly related to your discipline to engage in serious PSD".
- III. Giving attention to the Spiritual. **1 Corinthians 3:1**
 - A. There can be no PSD without first having spiritual life.
 1. Prior to salvation, we are dead in trespasses and sins. **Ephesians 2:1**
 2. An unbeliever has no spiritual life to cultivate. Example: Nicodemus in **John 3:1-8**
 3. Some people are disillusioned with Christianity because they expect spiritual development, but they do not have spiritual life. **Romans 8:9**
 4. **1 Corinthians 2:14** "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

- B. Biblical terms for spiritual life.
 - 1. The Bible uses many terms for spiritual life.
 - a. Regeneration (new birth) –Titus 3:5
 - b. Born again—1 Peter 1:23
 - c. New creature—2 Corinthians 5:17
 - d. Spiritual—Galatians 6:1
 - e. New man—Ephesians 4:17-32
 - f. Inward man—2 Corinthians 4:16
 - 2. At salvation, we experience all of the above.
 - 3. What makes this possible? It is the presence, work, and indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - 4. The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual life.
 - 5. We are now capable of PSD
- C. It is tempting, even as believers, to give more attention to other aspects of life.
 - 1. We must not only give attention to the physical, emotional, social, intellectual, economical, etc.
 - 2. We must give attention to the spiritual.

IV. The process of development. **2 Peter 1:1-11**

- A. God's part—vs 1-4.
- B. Our Part—vs 5-7.
- C. The result—vs 8.
- D. Why many doubt their salvation—vs 9-11.
 - 1. They lack PSD.
 - 2. They have been conquered by sin and guilt.
 - 3. A high profile "Christian" is saved.
 - 4. New lessons have been learned regarding salvation.
 - 5. They struggle with remembering the details of their salvation.
 - 6. The seed of doubt grow in the soil of suffering. (Matthew 11:1-6)

To consider:

- 1. Am I "poor in spirit"? in what ways do I recognize my dependence on God?
- 2. In what areas do I need to take personal responsibility?
- 3. How much attention do I give the spiritual? How do I plan to devote more attention?
- 4. What is keeping me from making the progress God desires for me to make?

Memorize: Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."