God's Vision for Spiritual Growth

Brent Moody · Galatians 5:16–26

INTRODUCTION

- We're going to get to some practical things this morning to deal with some of the problems that have been introduced in past sermons.
- The problem of hurry, being so hurried in life and busy that we get distracted with things that are unimportant.

1 Not an Improved Self but a New Creation

Galatians 6:15; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:22–24

- This is about a way of life. It's not a one-time decision.
- In Greek, it just says, if you're in Christ, new creation. That's what you are. You're not the old creation.
- Old creation is Adam, new creation is Christ.
- You're not an improved self. It's not the old self that has developed and gotten better. No, the old self is gone. And now it is a new self.

2 Choose the Master You're Going to Serve

Matthew 6:24; Romans 6

- You will know them by their fruits. Good trees don't produce bad fruit. Bad trees don't produce good fruit.
- Jesus says, you cannot serve two masters. You're going to be devoted to the one and you're going to despise the other.
- What's important and what matters is not being the most rightist. It's being the most Christ like.
- If you're not intentionally being led by the Spirit, if you're not intentionally a disciple of Jesus Christ, you are allowing the world to be your master. There's no in between.

3 Crucify the Flesh and Practice the Things of Christ

Galatians 5:21; Matthew 6:3

- If you're going to live by the Spirit, you have to crucify the flesh.
- If you will be my disciple, Jesus says, take up your cross and follow after me. That message is you have to die. You have to die to yourself.
- I warn you, just like I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. That word do in Greek is the word we get our word practice from.
- Becoming someone who is in Christ, it involves regular activity and training so that the things of Christ and being led by the spirit are done even unconsciously.

4 Keep in Step with the Spirit

Galatians 5:25; Galatians 4:3; Galatians 4:9

- If you want to live by the Spirit, you have to keep in step with the Spirit.
- It's actually a military term. It's about being in rank, it's about order and structure.
- How can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world?
- This text uses the word fruit singularly. All of these attributes sort of come together to be what is the fruit of the Spirit.

5 Pause: The Presence of God

- We're so hurried and busy, particularly in our life, and get caught up in the things of the flesh, the things that don't matter, the things that tie us in to not seeking the kingdom of God first.
- Just consider, first of all, the P presence of God, the presence of God and appreciate that in your life.
- This is not about earning your salvation. This is not trying to get saved.
- A simple prayer, Father, guide my thoughts and actions and heart today. Just the simple recognition that God is there.

6 Faster: Evaluating Where You Are in Your Hurried Life

1 Peter 5

- This is a way of evaluating where you are in your hurried life.
- We forget our priorities. We neglect our family. We have less time and energy for God.
- At any part of that process, if we've actually taken the time to think about where we are, we can then pursue restoration.
- And then I need to find some kind of simple way to take action.

THE CHALLENGE

Can we help you this morning? Why don't you come now as we stand and we sing?

MY NOTES