

GROWING IN THE LORD

Lesson #1 -Sincere Spirituality

Scripture Reading: 2 Peter 3:17, 18

Introduction:

1. Sincerity is vital to credibility.
2. The foundation of sincere spirituality is laid within the heart.
3. What type of heart is conditioned for spiritual growth?
4. In this lesson we will identify 3 characteristics the heart must have.

I. PURE HEART

A. JESUS PRONOUNCED BLESSING ON THE PURE HEART -Mt 5:8

1. God looks upon the heart of man.
 - a. Jesus knows what is in man -Jn 2:25
 - b. The thoughts of man were on evil continually -Ge 6:5
 - c. God choosing David to be king -1Sa 16:7
2. Woe to the scribes and Pharisees -Mt 23:25-28

B. THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT -Mk 12:28-34

1. No one can fake loving God with every fiber of his being.
2. No one can fake loving his neighbor as himself.

C. WE ARE TO BE LIVING SACRIFICES -Ro 12:1, 2

1. This is change from the inside to the outward man.
2. Renewing one's mind effects every other aspect of life.
 - a. We are what we think -Pr 23:7
 - b. Therefore, we must think on good things -Ph 4:8
 - c. From the heart, the mouth speaks -Mt 12:34

II. HUMBLE HEART

A. WE ARE NOT TO THINK TOO HIGHLY OF OURSELVES -Ro 12:3-8

1. We use the abilities we have been given to glorify God.
2. We are unprofitable servants -Lk 17:10

B. JESUS WAS HUMBLE

1. He came to serve, not be served -Mt 20:28
2. He demonstrated service -Jn 13:1-17
3. He humbled Himself in coming to earth -Ph 2:5-8

III. ENDURING HEART

A. ENDURE IN DOING GOOD WORKS

1. The good we do for one another -Ro 12:9-13
2. The good we do for all -Ga 6:9, 10

B. ENDURE MISTREATMENT

1. Through many tribulations we enter the kingdom -Ac 14:22
2. We will suffer persecution -2Ti 3:12

C. LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE -Co 3:12-15

Conclusion:

1. People can see through faith that is insincere.
2. Even more so, God can see through insincere faith.
3. Therefore, we desire our faith to be true from the inside out!