

## INTRODUCTION

### **SOME REASONS WHY IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE STUDY THE WORD OF GOD - THE BIBLE.**

LET US PRAY.

Father, we thank you for the privilege to study your word. We acknowledge that you love us and that is why you want us to understand your ways as we reason together. Qualify us by the blood of Jesus to stand in your presence for instruction. Help us not only to hear but to obey. We ask all this through Jesus Christ your son our Lord. Amen.

Our main text here is LUKE Chapter 2 verse 52. Open your bible and read that verse meditatively. In my bible it is written thus:-

"And Jesus grew in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God and man." I am using the NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION of the bible. Any translation makes the same sense.

Since we are talking about spiritual growth and considering the fact that JESUS is our model this text helps us to examine how JESUS GREW. This will help us to look at our own lives and see where we still need to develop.

Jesus grew in WISDOM = Mind development  
Jesus grew in STATURE = Body development.  
Jesus grew in FAVOUR with GOD = Spiritual development  
Jesus grew in FAVOUR with MEN = Social development.

This simply tells us that he was not born with all these abilities already developed . He grew just like we all have the capacity and the provision to grow. .

For the mind we need to go to school learn a trade or study at home.  
For the body we need to eat all types of food exercise our bodies etc. etc.  
For our social development we need to build relationships, etc.  
And for the spirit we need the LIFE IN THE WORD OF GOD. and that is where the problem lies.

Many people study the word of God intellectually and are ignorant of the fact that there is Life hidden in the word of God. Intellectual study of the word of God is good but it only builds the mind and does not touch the spirit. The word of God is Spirit and life. We are going to be penetrating beyond words to extract the spirit that is hidden in the word. Read JOHN Chapter 6 verse 63. Also Read John chapter 1verse 1-5 meditatively.

The type of building material we use to build any of these areas will determine our personality in the long run. Satan has a counterfeit of everything that God has provided for human development that is why God has given us his word to guide us in every aspect of our lives hence the popular saying that we should seek first the kingdom of God and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS and all other things shall be added. Seek first spiritual development.

That which will kick off our spiritual growth is nothing but OBEDIENCE to the word of God. I earlier said that the devil has counterfeited every material for our development. For spiritual development he has made alternatives like occultism, spirit's, black magic etc. For anyone to succeed in developing under such agents of darkness, that person must totally obey every instruction without complaining. Failure to obey has terrible consequences. Total obedience brings some results and many people run to them for temporal solutions to their problems.

The word of God carries more power than the occult and all other counterfeit powers. The problem with the Christians is that they know the word but they do not obey hence there is no results. For anyone to grow spiritually that person must be willing to obey the word of God. I agree that it is not easy but we have the Holy spirit to help us the only problem is our willingness to obey. The ability comes from God as he sees our determination. Remember we cannot deceive him because he sees the heart.

My question is:- After this introduction do you think you can continue the study on spiritual development. Remember obedience is better than sacrifice. If your answer is YES then write back so that we can kick off with lesson one. Remember it will be useless if we study to feed our already developed minds. Our objective is to grow Gods way. And because God is a SPIRIT it is a must that we grow spiritually.

God be with you as you make the direction. I am praying for you.

Pastor Pauline Fokwar