



G.O.A.T. Greatest Of All Time

It's Time To Grow Up

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Discussion Notes

The Crossing Church
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OPENING

Jesus is the Greatest Of All Time. Yes, we have heroes in various sports who have performed far above the average player, but only one is the champion for the ages and He is Jesus Christ. This week we are continuing our series based upon the book of Hebrews. Sometimes we look around and ask, "Where did all the time go?" It seems to be passing us by faster and faster every year. Other questions we need to ask are, "What have we done for Jesus in all of that time?" and "What will we do in the future for Him?" and "What can we do to become more spiritually mature?" Above all, we can't give up!

SCRIPTURE¹

Hebrews 5:12-14 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food. Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Hebrews 6:1-6 Therefore, let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so. It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Galatians 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

OBSERVATION

All of us are in different stages of our spiritual journey and many of us are looking for the next step on the path toward spiritual maturity. There is something inside of us saying, "I want to be different, I want to be changed. I want others to see the light of Jesus flowing through me and impacting the world for Him." Whether we are new followers of Jesus, spiritual stumblers, slowly growing, or fully surrendered, our journey still offers opportunities to grow deeper than we have ever grown before.

Question: When have you asked God to change you, to lead you out of a time of spiritual stagnation? How did He answer you?

¹ All scripture is NIV unless otherwise indicated

APPLICATION

As we consider where we are on this journey, some of us wonder if we have fallen away or if we were really saved in the first place. We need to remember that we are saved by grace² and not by works. The works begin after repentance and surrender because we love God and want to be obedient to Him. Our salvation is secure unless we blaspheme the Holy Spirit by making a permanent decision to reject God and never come back. But we don't have to lose our salvation to lose our passion. When we answer to Jesus in heaven it won't be only for what we have done – it will be about how fervently we did it. How far above everything else was Jesus in our lives?

Question: When have you doubted your salvation? What was happening in your life during that time? What conclusion did you reach about that doubt? In what spiritual areas are you deceiving yourself?

There is something exciting about seeing growth because not growing in any area of our lives becomes boring and uninspiring, especially when we are talking about our spiritual journey. So staying in the same place is not an option. Unless we are newborn Christians, the milk or basics of our faith need to be internalized and behind us so we can move on toward greater spiritual maturity. We should be experiencing greater depth of understanding and consistently practicing our faith. We should be moving toward teaching others about Jesus and helping them to understand why He came, what He taught about the Kingdom of Heaven, how He brought reconciliation with God to us, and what loving God and man looks like. It is about moving forward in the faith.

Question: Where are you on your journey to become more like Jesus? What opportunities do you have to teach others about Him? What would hinder you in this effort?

Question: How passionate are you in pursuing Him? What are you putting before Him?

The author of Hebrews tells us how we can move toward spiritual maturity. It takes training, not trying harder. Preparing for a marathon is not accomplished by strengthening our will – it is by training our bodies over time. And so, for all of us, let the training begin and start using these three tools that lead to spiritual maturity: **1) God's Holy Spirit:** In the Old Testament, the Spirit would “come upon” people for specific purposes. When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure, He told them that He was going to His Father so that the Holy Spirit could come as our counselor, comforter, conscience, trainer and teacher. He became part of us at salvation and thereafter He works with us from within. This is a totally different experience from what His disciples experienced. It is the Spirit of Jesus living within us and we need to keep in step with Him.

Question: When did you first experience Jesus was living within you? What was that like?

Question: When do you thirst for Jesus as the deer pants for streams of water in **Psalm 42:1**? How does that metaphor help you to understand passion for Christ?

Then, **2) God's Word:** Church attendance is not an indicator of spiritual growth. It is Bible engagement -- the thirsting for knowledge that God is providing through His Scriptures. It has power as the Bible teaches us all that God wants us to know about Him and His kingdom, salvation, discipleship, including His requirements of us.

Question: Where are you in studying God's Word? What would help you pursue Bible knowledge more passionately? What questions do you have about the Bible?

Finally, **3) God's People:** We grow spiritually when we let other godly people into our lives. They encourage us, comfort us, teach us, and tell us the truth when we don't recognize it. Being part of small groups provides us the opportunity to support others who are struggling with strongholds or grief. That is also a growth experience for us. We don't have to go on this journey alone – we are His sheep, aren't we? We need to be part of His flock. We talk a lot about **Rooted** here at The Crossing because it is a powerful program that grows disciples for our Lord Jesus in an environment with fellow Christians who are also committed to growing spiritually.

Question: What kind of a future with Jesus do you really want? Where is your passion for discipleship? What do you need to hear that will encourage you to sign up for **Rooted** in April? The light is green – it's time to move forward.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we want to be different, we want to be a fire that shines so bright that the whole world can see Jesus in us. Create in us a passion that magnifies You over everything else in our lives. All for Your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

² Ephesians 2:8-9