

Do not be ignorant of spiritual matters!

1 Corinthians 14:20

Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

This morning, I would like to speak about the importance of understanding spiritual matters and spiritual principles.

The Church of Corinth, like every other church that has ever existed or will exist in the future, was not perfect, so Paul was encouraging them to grow in spiritual understanding.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

We live in a natural world, and we have a body of flesh and a mind that needs constant renewing by the word of God, so, our natural tendency is to live solely in the natural realm, what we see with our eyes, forgetting that the spiritual realm is real, and that there are spiritual principles established by God, in operation.

Galatians 5:16-17

Galatians 5:19-26

1. IT IS POSSIBLE TO LIVE AND WALK IN THE SPIRIT.

It is possible to live and walk in the spirit despite having a body of flesh and a mind which is not perfect.

The Holy Spirit can help you control your body and mind if you yield to Him.

Romans 8:26-27

The same Holy Spirit who raised Christ from the dead can certainly help us in our struggles, but we need to grow in our understanding of spiritual matters, and principles, and be willing to obey God's instructions.

Jesus addressed the issue of understanding spiritual matters, with different people during His ministry.

Matthew 22:25 Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.

Another time, Jesus rebuked His own disciples for lack of spiritual understanding.

Luke 9:52-56

55 But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. 56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them. And they went to another village.

2. LACK OF SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING AFFECTS EVERY ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE.

a) If you lack spiritual understanding, you can pray wrong prayers.

b) If you lack spiritual understanding, you can be easily deceived by the Devil.

2 Kings 6:13-17

The young man was able to see into the spiritual realm, he had no idea that they were not alone. The armies of God were all around them, to protect them.

Another story that points to the fact that the spiritual realm is very real, is in the book of Daniel. **Daniel 10:7-14**

Why do we have stories like this in the Bible? So, that we may not be ignorant of spiritual matters.

If we are ignorant of spiritual matters, we run the risk of being deceived by our enemy. The Devil is a deceiver.

Revelation 12:9

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

2 Corinthians 2:11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

When we do not forgive someone, we open a door to the enemy to attack us, he will take advantage of us.

Unforgiveness is a big deal to God.

And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Matthew 6:15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 18:23-35

Hebrews 12:15

15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

Unforgiveness and bitterness are like poison – they are lethal.

3. LACK OF SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING WILL HINDER YOUR FAITH.

Jesus said in Mark 11:22 (...) “Have faith in God.

Your faith can only be operational and effective if you understand the principles that govern it:

a) You need to understand what Jesus accomplished on the Cross.

- b) You need to learn God's Word, His promises, His ways.
- c) You need to know who you are in Christ and how to use the authority that God gave you over the Devil, demons and works of darkness.

For example, if all you know about the cross is the fact that Jesus died for your sins, you don't know enough, because so much more happened at the cross.

John 12:31

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Colossians 2:15

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

1 John 3:8

8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Luke 10:19

19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

James 4:7

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Ephesians 6:16

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Another way that our faith can be hindered is when we do not pay attention to what we are sowing into lives. It's called the principle of sowing and reaping.

Galatians 6:7

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Let's not be ignorant of spiritual matters! Let's do better spiritually this year.