

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Bob and Patsy Green | Hispanic Ministries

PRAISE

- Bob and Patsy just celebrated their 50th year of service through BIMl.
- The small plane has been sold and the funds have been deposited into a scholarship fund to assist new missionary pilots with aviation training at BIMl.
- For Roberto Nieto from El Savador, who was called to pastor Tabernacle Baptist Church, a church that has established 40 daughter churches over the past 30 years.
- Bob’s blood pressure is still fluctuating some but it is much more stable than it was.

PRAY

- for the Spanish Sunday School class and other efforts to reach the Spanish speaking people.



Handout: 08/20/23

Study Date: 08/27/23

Let God’s Spirit “Move in”

Paul already explained that there are two kinds of people in the world—natural (unsaved) and spiritual (saved). But now he explained that there are two kinds of saved people: mature and immature (carnal). A Christian matures by allowing the Spirit to teach him and direct him by feeding on the Word. The immature Christian lives for the things of the flesh (carnal means “flesh”) and has little interest in the things of the Spirit. Of course, some believers are immature because they have been saved only a short time, but that is not what Paul is discussing here.

Paul was the “spiritual father” who brought this family into being (1 Cor. 4:15). During the eighteen months he ministered in Corinth, Paul had tried to feed his spiritual children and help them mature in the faith. Just as in a human family, everybody helps the new baby grow and mature, so in the family of God we must encourage spiritual maturity.

What are the marks of maturity? For one thing, you can tell the mature person by his diet. As I write this chapter, we are watching our grandson and our granddaughter grow up. Becky is still being nursed by her mother, but Jonathan now sits at the table and uses his little cup and (with varying degrees of success) his tableware. As children grow, they learn to eat different food. They graduate (to use Paul’s words) from milk to meat.

What is the difference? The usual answer is that “milk” represents the easy things in the Word, while “meat” represents the hard doctrines. But I disagree with that traditional explanation, and my proof is Hebrews 5:10–14. That passage seems to teach that “milk” represents what Jesus Christ did on earth, while “meat” concerns what He is doing now in heaven. The writer of Hebrews wanted to teach his readers about the present heavenly priesthood of Jesus Christ, but his readers were so immature, he could not do it (note Heb. 6:1–4).

The Word of God is our spiritual food: milk (1 Peter 2:2), bread (Matt. 4:4), meat (Heb. 5:11–14), and even honey (Ps. 119:103). Just as the physical man needs a balanced diet if his body is to be healthy, so the inner man needs a balanced diet of spiritual food. The baby begins with milk, but as he grows and his teeth develop, he needs solid food.

It is not difficult to determine a believer’s spiritual maturity, or immaturity, if you discover what kind of “diet” he enjoys. The immature believer knows little about the present ministry of Christ in heaven. He knows the facts about our Lord’s life and ministry on earth, but not the truths about His present ministry in heaven. He lives on “Bible stories” and not Bible doctrines. He has no understanding of 1 Corinthians 2:6–7.

Source: Bible Exposition Commentary by Warren Wiersbe

KEY VERSE

I Corinthians 2:16 (NKJV)

For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: I Corinthians 2:14-3:4; John 14:15-17, 15:26

Introduction

1. What are some characteristics of great teams?
2. Who is the Holy Spirit? How is he involved in your life?

Tuesday: I Corinthians 1:18, 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3

The Natural Person

3. What characteristics does the natural person have according to the Bible?
4. How does God make a natural person spiritually alive?

Wednesday: I Corinthians 3:1-4, 14:20 Hebrews 5:11-6:1

The Carnal Person

5. What characteristics does the carnal person have according to the Bible?
6. How can a carnal person grow in Christ and become a spiritual person?

Thursday: I Cor. 2:15-16; Matthew 20:26-28; Philippians 2:5-8

The Spiritual Person

7. What characteristics does the spiritual person have according to the Bible?
8. According to today’s readings, what does it mean to have the mind of Christ?
9. In what way was Jesus a servant?

Friday: I Corinthians 12:4-7; Romans 8:1-17; John 14:26

The Holy Spirit Move In

10. What do today’s readings teach us about the Holy Spirit?
11. How can the Holy Spirit help us in serving others?
12. How is the Holy Spirit leading you this week?