

Journey to Spiritual Maturity: Embracing Challenges and Deepening Faith

spiritual growth fellowship deepening faith

Basic Information

- Date & Time: 2024-04-25 19:05:16
- Location: Oasis BTC
- Instructor: Steve Porter
- Title: **Deeper Life in Christ Part 4: Cultivating Intimacy and Spiritual Maturity"**

Summary

In this special message, Steve Porter introduces the deeper life in Christ. The deeper life is about cultivating a deep, intimate relationship with Jesus through abiding in Him, being filled with the Holy Spirit, dying to self, and growing in spiritual maturity.

Key points covered:

- The deeper life is Christ-centered, Spirit-filled, and focused on the cross
- It's about ministering to the Lord, not just doing things for Him
- Believers are called to transition from spiritual babies to mature disciples
- Disciples are learners, obedient to God, and aim to be like their Teacher

- Keys to the deeper life: steadfastness in the Word, fellowship, and prayer

Steve shares his personal testimony of how the deeper life message transformed him as a young man and set him on a lifelong pursuit of intimacy with Jesus. While not always popular, this message of complete surrender is what matters most when we stand before the Lord.

If you hunger for more of God, this teaching will ignite a fresh passion to go deeper in your walk with Him. You'll be challenged to move beyond a shallow faith to cultivate a beautiful spirit that carries the fragrance of Christ. As you die to self, you will experience the abundant life Jesus promised!

Knowledge Points

1. The deeper life in Christ through spiritual maturity, transformation, and readiness as the Bride of Christ.

- **Prayer for Manifest Presence** The speaker begins by inviting the presence of Jesus and expressing gratitude, setting a spiritual tone for the teaching.
- **Spiritual Warfare** The speaker mentions the pushing back of the enemy and the protection by angels, indicating a belief in spiritual warfare.
- **Desire for Divine Manifestation** There is a repeated plea for Jesus to manifest in the gathering, showing a deep yearning for a visitation of the the Lord.
- **Personal Spiritual Journey** The speaker shares his personal journey of not being attentive to spiritual messages during his youth, and how a deeper life message profoundly changed him.

- **Impact of Spiritual Messages** The speaker emphasizes the transformative power of certain spiritual messages that deeply affected him, highlighting the impact of profound spiritual teachings.
- **Career vs. Ministry** The speaker discusses his career choices between managing group homes for people with disabilities and full-time ministry, reflecting on his calling and priorities.
- **Teaching the Deeper Life Message** Motivated by the life-changing impact of the deeper life message, the speaker feels compelled to teach this message to others.
- **Spiritual Maturity** The teaching emphasizes the importance of spiritual maturity, moving beyond elementary teachings to deeper spiritual truths.
- **Inner Life and Spiritual Fruits** Focus is given to the cultivation of the inner life and the fruits of the Spirit, which are seen as essential aspects of a deeper spiritual life.
- **The Role of Suffering and Sacrifice** The speaker discusses the necessity of suffering and sacrifice in the spiritual journey, linking it to the crucifixion of personal desires and ambitions.
- **Preparation as the Bride of Christ** The concept of the church as the Bride of Christ prepared for Jesus is a recurring theme, emphasizing readiness and purity.
- **Conformity to Christ** The ultimate goal of the deeper life message is to conform believers into the image of Christ, highlighting transformation and discipleship.

2. Spiritual and personal growth through overcoming adversities and embracing humility.

- **Personal growth through challenges** The speaker discusses how challenging situations during Bible school helped him grow personally and spiritually.

- **Conflict resolution** A conflict with a fellow student in the first year of Bible school was eventually resolved, demonstrating personal and communal development.
- **Spiritual transformation** The speaker highlights how spiritual growth was facilitated by overcoming personal dislikes and pride through menial tasks.
- **Humility lessons** Tasks like washing dishes and cleaning toilets were used as lessons in humility, comparing them to Jesus washing the disciples' feet.
- **Recognition of character development** By the third year, the speaker was recognized for his character and spiritual growth by being chosen as the class speaker.

3. Spiritual Growth through Embracing Challenges and Engaging with Scripture

- **Spiritual Maturity through Trials** The speaker emphasizes that challenges and 'fires' in life are meant to expose weaknesses and foster spiritual growth.
- **Embracing Challenges** Students are encouraged to welcome difficulties with a positive attitude, seeing them as opportunities to conform to the image of their Savior.
- **Progression in Spiritual Nourishment** The metaphor of moving from 'Spam' to 'porterhouse steak' illustrates the journey from basic to deeper spiritual understanding and maturity.
- **Importance of Scripture** Acts 2:42 is highlighted as a crucial verse, underlining the importance of steadfastness in doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers.
- **Continuous Learning** The speaker stresses the importance of continual learning and engagement with the scriptures to grow spiritually.

- **Practical Application of Teachings** Students are advised to regularly review their notes and integrate the teachings into their daily lives.

4. The importance of being steadfast in faith and the roles of doctrine and fellowship in spiritual growth.

- **Importance of steadfastness** The teaching emphasizes the importance of being steadfast, which means not giving up and continuously pursuing one's spiritual journey.
- **Difference between disciples and converts** The speaker highlights that God seeks disciples who are committed and steadfast, not just converts who may not fully commit to their faith.
- **Growth in faith** Growth in faith is discussed as a process where individuals take baby steps to learn and enhance their understanding and practice of their beliefs.
- **Role of the Apostles' doctrine** The Apostles' doctrine, or the Word of God, is presented as a fundamental element for growing in faith.
- **Importance of fellowship** Fellowship is mentioned as a crucial aspect of spiritual growth and learning, emphasizing community and shared learning.

5. The transformative power of fellowship and deep spiritual engagement in a church setting

- **Importance of fellowship** The speaker emphasizes the significance of gathering and communicating among believers, describing it as essential for creating a family-like atmosphere within the church.

- **Family atmosphere in church** The speaker wants everyone at Refuge/Oasis to feel like family, highlighting a welcoming and loving environment.
- **Personal anecdotes to illustrate points** The speaker shares personal stories, such as the relationship with a close friend from Bible school, to underline the value of deep, Christ-centered fellowship.
- **Unity in the Church** Unity within the church is portrayed as a powerful force against evil, with the speaker asserting that a unified church cannot be stopped by the devil.
- **Iron sharpens iron** This biblical metaphor is used to describe how believers can mutually strengthen and enhance each other's faith through close and continuous interaction.
- **Power of prayer and deep spiritual life** The speaker encourages deep and meaningful prayer as a way to grow into full spiritual maturity, suggesting that prayer deepens one's spiritual life.
- **Intimacy with Jesus** The teaching includes guidance on developing a close, intimate relationship with Jesus, describing Him as the 'lover of your soul.'
- **Spiritual maturity and deeper life** The speaker prays that the message will lead listeners to pursue a deeper, more mature spiritual life and not remain content with superficial faith.
- **Manifest presence of God** The speaker expresses gratitude for feeling God's manifest presence during the lecture, contrasting it with previous distractions.
- **Impartation of spiritual gifts** There is a call for an impartation of spirit and life to the listeners, both present and future, indicating a desire for an ongoing spiritual impact.

Assignments

1. Review and print out lecture notes, place them in a binder for regular study.
2. Engage with the scriptures as mentioned, particularly Acts 2:42, to understand and apply the early church's practices.
3. Read your 2 books.