

RESULTS of CLEANSING

1 John 2.12-14

Just to recap last week: Our sinning needs Cleansing! We were born into sin; inherit our sinful nature from Adam;

So we have sin; we DO sin;

we are grieved when we sin; BUT we must constantly battle sin.

We have an advocate and an intercessor!

CONFESSION is always the KEY that unlocks the door of cleansing.

Confession gives us access to the Mercy Seat; opens the heavens...

These three classifications are not physical age groups or spiritual stages.

Rather, it seems that each group is a reference to all of John's readers all the time.

1. Says the same thing to the children AND the fathers ("you know Him")
2. Changes the meaning of "children" in vs 12 to 13...

'All Christians are (by grace, not nature) children in innocence and dependence on the heavenly Father, young men in strength, and fathers in experience' (C. H. Dodd)

So I believe he is speaking to ALL of us at EVERY stage or level in our Xian walk.

Sometimes I am a child struggling with my walk.

Sometimes I am mature and seem to be secure and steady.

Other times I feel young and strong, I have vigor and authority...overcoming!

Then all of a sudden, I'm a toddler again: falling down and bewildered.

GROWING DISCIPLES Children:

In 13.33 Jesus calls disciples My little children (teknon)...Also 1 John 2.1,12,28; 3.7

But here (peadia): a half-grown boy or girl; damsel; growing or immature Xians.

You know your sins are forgiven, and you know the Father POSITION: Forgiven Sins!

As beginners, *you know your starting point!*

James 5:16 IS SO wonderful! Quote it often!

The effective, fervent prayers of a righteous man avails much. Great! Wonderful! Powerful! *Context!*

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. *And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

As children, we are learning, aren't we?

We cannot gossip with our mouth...then go to prayer.

We cannot hold grudges...and expect blessing

We cannot hate then expect to love...

But THANK GOD don't forget confession!

If I confess my sins, I'll be forgiven

and according to James, I will be healed.

MATURE BELIEVERS

Fathers and Mothers:

You have known Him (past tense) who is from the beginning

Relationship with God. You know the full gamut of walking with X!

:Power of sin, danger of the flesh, The allure of the world

:Done with the powerless, half-hearted service...you want the reward of a disc!

Knowledge of God that comes from obedience

Striving to become more mature through obeying His Word...

:No longer petulant children, huffy teen agers...FULL GROWN...

Hebrews 5:12-14

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is,

those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

1 Sam 15:22-23

Then Samuel said, Do you think all God wants are sacrifices - empty rituals just for show?

He wants you to listen to him! Plain listening is the thing, not staging a lavish religious production.

Not doing what God tells you is far worse than worshiping a household graven image.

(If you are disobeying, might as well stick a little idol of Buddha at your door...)

Getting self-important around God is *far worse than divination with a witch.*

A lifestyle of maturity leads us to the last category...

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMERS (sons and daughters)

Word abides in you

This is our starting point. It is absolutely impossible to grow in X without the Word.

It is impossible to mature without abiding in the Word and the Word abiding in us.

I cannot grow spiritually without reading and meditating on the word of God.

Impossible! It is the WORD that ...lights our path; ...cleanses our walk; etc

When the Word is in you, you become STRONG.

Isa 40.30-31

And finally, you overcome the wicked one

Because, when I hear the word of faith, and I stand on that word, defeat is over and victory is on the way.

I believe John is telling us to grow and keep growing.

He's telling us to turn our childhood into strength and our strength and to maturity,

and when we are mature, *we need to walk in childlike faith and fight like a soldier on a battlefield.*