

“By Then You Should Know...”

*Attaining Spiritual Maturity - Lesson #4
Fall 2011 – October 5th, 2011*

Scripture: Ephesians 4.1-16

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the use/purpose of a spare tire?

2. When is the last time you changed your spare tire?
 - a. Never
 - b. The last time I got new tires
 - c. This week

3. Up until now, when is the last time you thought about your spare tire?
 - a. Right now
 - b. Sunday
 - c. When I bought the car



What I am not saying?

- The Bible is not a spare tire.
- The Bible should not be rotated.
- The Bible should not be placed in the trunk of your car.
- The Bible is not to be run over.

What would you add to the list?

The Text of Ephesians 4.13:

"...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ..."

(Ephesians 4.13; ESV)

Discussion Questions:

1. Where does Paul want the focus of the Ephesians?
2. What is the importance of a Godly focus?

George Mueller's Six Steps

Evangelist and philanthropist George Mueller, born in Germany, became one of the most powerful evangelical leaders in nineteenth-century England and is particularly remembered for his work with orphans. He once articulated six principles he followed when seeking the Lord's will:

1. I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter. Nine-tenths of the trouble with people is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what his will is.
2. Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or simple impression. If I do so, I make myself liable to great delusions.
3. I see the will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the Word of God. The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions also. If the Holy Spirit guides us at all, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them.
4. Next I take into account providential circumstances. These often plainly indicate God's will in connection with His Word and Spirit.
5. I ask God in prayer to reveal His will to me aright.
6. Thus, through prayer to God, the study of the Word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge; and if my mind is thus at peace, and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly. In trivial matters, and in transactions involving more important issues, I have found this method always effective.

(Source: Nelson's Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations and Quotes by Robert J. Morgan)