

Do We Want to Grow?

Do we, the members here at the Warfield church, want to grow in number and in faith? I believe we would all say "Yes" to that question. So, what is necessary for us to actually accomplish this beyond saying "Yes"? Let's consider four necessary and essential things that we must all have in order to accomplish this goal of growth.

Each one of us must perform a **PERSONAL DUTY** (Luke 17:10; Ephesians 4:16) that is committed to the growth of this local church. We will not grow when we are not personally invested and involved in the growth process ourselves.

Each one of us must have a **POWERFUL FAITH** that believes we can grow. Like the Israelites (Numbers 13:30-33), we will not grow when we do not believe that we can grow and overcome obstacles.

Each one of us must offer a **PREVAILING PRAYER** (1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:16-18) that asks the Lord for growth. We will not grow when we do not pray for growth and then go out and labor for it.

Each one of us must make a **PERSISTANT EFFORT** (1 Corinthians 15:58) that does not quit; that keeps going; that keeps trying. We will not grow when we give up after the first time. - *Chris Reeves*

Let's go grow! - *Chris Reeves*

News & Notes

Please mark your calendar with the following important dates...

April 5-8: Gospel meeting with John Gentry

June 4-8: VBS (tentative)

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Let the Bible Speak

Many today want a message from God and God has indeed spoken to them through his Son, Jesus (Acts 3:22; Hebrews 1:1-2), and through Jesus' apostles (1 Corinthians 2:7; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 12:19; Colossians 4:3). The message of God through Jesus and the apostles has been written down and recorded in the Bible. But, many will not let the Bible speak to them today! They let other things get in the way of the Bible message and so they cannot hear what the Bible is speaking to them. Let's take a look at some of those things.

Human Traditions

We cannot let the Bible speak when we are listening to human traditions. Human traditions, whether oral or written down ("creeds"), are from man, not God. Both Jesus (Matthew 15:3,9) and Paul (Colossians 2:8) warned against following traditions. Man-made traditions and creeds contain sometimes more, or sometimes less, than the Bible. We just need to let the Bible speak.

Latter-Day Revelations

We cannot let the Bible speak when we are listening to so-called "latter-day revelations" - claims that people have made that God spoke directly to them. Latter-day revelations, such as the Koran or the Book of Mormon, are from man, not God (Galatians 1:6-9). Mohammed (in

the Koran) and Joseph Smith (in the Book of Mormon) claimed to hear messages from God, but they offered no proof to back up their claim. They simply claimed it and people believed them, but they did not prove it. We just need to let the Bible speak.

Scripture Twisting

We cannot let the Bible speak when we twist the scriptures and make them say what we want them to say. Scripture twisting is often done by preachers, scholars, etc. Scripture twisting allows man to speak, but not God. The apostle Peter wrote that we must let God speak (1 Peter 4:11) and we must avoid scripture twisting that leads to one's own destruction (2 Peter 3:16-18). We just need to let the Bible speak.

Modernism / Liberalism

We cannot let the Bible speak when we consider the Bible to be the fallible word of man. The apostle Paul wrote that scripture is given by God's "inspiration" (2 Timothy 3:16; see also Peter's words in 2 Peter 1:20). Scripture is God breathed. However, "modernism / liberalism" (a system of belief going back to the 1800s) does not accept what the Bible says as true. It does not accept Bible miracles or divine inspiration. It believes the Bible is a combination of fact and fiction. It ultimately robs the Bible of its power (Matthew 22:29). We just need to let the Bible speak.

Listening to Self

We cannot let the Bible speak when we are listening to self and what we want to hear. Like Peter, many are talking (giving their opinions) when they should be listening to God's word (Matthew 17:5). Others close their ears (Matthew 13:13-15; Acts 7:58) and still others listen to what makes them happy (2 Timothy 4:3-4). Others follow their conscience or their personal experiences/feelings, rather than what the Bible says (2 Kings 5:11; Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23; Acts 26:9; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; Titus 1:15). Others follow the personal testimonials of men (1 Kings 13:18). We just need to let the Bible speak.

Silence the Message

We cannot let the Bible speak when we attempt to silence its message. Many refuse the message. They try, literally, to get rid of the message: burning or banning the Bible (Jeremiah 36:23). Or, they try to silence the messenger (Acts 7:58). We just need to let the Bible speak.

Many, if not most people in America own a Bible. But, they do not let the Bible speak to them. The Bible is often silenced, vetoed, or set aside. Here's a good test: when the Bible is read, do we say, "Yes, but..."? Or, are we content to simply let the Bible speak? - *Chris Reeves*