

What Are We Expecting?

As emotional, physical beings, we tend to want things, 'when' we want them. However, whether it's help in relationships or solving problems, a godly solution often takes time and diligence to build in the inner man.

Spiritual maturity advances like human development, from an infant to an adult. The Word of God has the answers. It's an eternal, practical book, but inward digestion of God's teachings can be a slow process.

How can believers stay motivated to read and study it when they see no immediate results? Recall how a farmer prepares the soil and sows seed, then waits, trusting. A hint of the harvest is finally seen when the seeds sprout. (Sowing and reaping.)

So too, trust God in your faith walk. As saints read and believe, planting seeds of the Truth within, visible reaping often begins slowly. *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* (Rom. 10:17)

Young or inexperienced saints may impatiently replace time in the Scripture with man's writings. Or, they may just passively listen to teachers. Regular time directly in the Scripture produces spiritual life and growth. *"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."* (1 Tim. 4:15) *This Book reads you!*

Think on this: Stay in the Scripture expecting that God is maturing you. Visible evidence may not show up for a while. *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."* (Gal. 6:7) Trust God in this!

Confidently expect the Spirit will teach!

Just A Minute! With Scripture

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold for emphasis.



Just as God has a way for man to grow into spiritual adulthood, so too He has a way for the Body of Christ to function together in unity. The Corinthians had not progressed in the basics of foundational Truths, so they weren't thinking properly about others, nor, even themselves. *"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?"* (1 Cor. 6:1)

Today we can avoid exalting our ways, as did the Corinthian's, and just trust God. His Word adjusts fleshly thinking to teach us who we are, enabling us to yield, live His will, & work His love to others. *"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."* (Phil. 2:12-13)

Believers at Corinth were striving with one another, even going to the secular law to assure their personal rights were protected. Yet, Paul admonishes: *"Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren."* (1 Cor. 6:7-8) They weren't walking as spiritual adults, nor as God taught, loving one another. (Acts 18:11) Godly thinking would have instructed them to forgive, displaying the fruit of the Spirit: *"...love, joy, peace, longsuffering..."* (Gal. 5:22)

I & II Corinthians re-formed foundational doctrines in the Corinthians to develop heart conviction, reminding them that their body & spirit were God's. The letters helped them glorify God and prefer others, rather than their own flesh. *"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* (1 Cor. 6:20)

To Do: Make this personal. What would you do if a saint in your assembly did you wrong. Would you ever 'feel' like taking a wrong? How could YOU possibly take it patiently? Hint: What is God's way?



Search it out!

Living As Who You Are In Christ

I Corinthians 6: Handling Legal Issues

Examine verses!



The Corinthians were aware of godly options, yet they decided to submit to 'the secular law,' serving their own self interests. Paul rebuked them saying, *"But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers."* (1 Cor. 6:6) Didn't they know that choosing to be under the secular law was a rejection of God's design for the Body of Christ? Study Chapter 6 for yourself to obtain more details about what is being taught.

1. Notice how the chapter is organized: Each chapter is written in sections by topics. Chapter 6 seems to be written in three sections. What are the verses in each and see if you can target the topics.

2. Use examples: Read Verses 2-3 to observe two ways saints will judge. How does this help the Corinthians learn about the error in their thinking? In what way did they view themselves incorrectly?

3. Word studies can be helpful, if context is considered: Read I Peter 2:19-23 and it's context and compare/contrast it with I Cor. 6:7-8. Note that I Corinthians was written 'to Gentile saints,' while I Peter addressed 'Jewish believers.' The issue of 'taking a

wrong' seems to be the same in both passages. Does I Peter help you gain depth to understand I Cor. 6:7-8?

4. Observe things that are qualified: In Verse 8, the Corinthians are told they did wrong, but it is further qualified: *"...and that your brethren."* They were sinning against members of the Body of Christ. This signifies an improper view of saints. Explore this further.

5. Notice verb tense: Read Verse 11 and describe how their status changed; notice 'were' and 'are' usage.

6. Evaluate a new guideline: Verse 12 provides a new insight for practical living. In what way can this assist the Corinthians in their dealing with a brother who has wronged them. How can this apply to you?

7. There is purpose to questions: Skim through the chapter and count the number of questions used. Did they help you understand the chapter? How and why would they have helped the Corinthians?

8. Read and reflect on context: Read Verses 15-20 several times. Is this fornication related to 'physical' sexual sin or 'spiritual' fornication against the Body of Christ? In what way can this section be practical to your life? How can you glorify God in spirit and body?

**Newer students: Focus on 'reading' Scripture rather than on using many new study insights. When you're ready, try one or two activities above.*

As Believers, Do We Have the Proper View?

Toward Others: Do we focus on ourselves or the needs of others in the Body?: *"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another...Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."* (Rom. 12:5,10) The Corinthians didn't have a godly view of others, they functioned as if their body and spirit were theirs, to serve 'themselves.'

Two things in I Corinthians 6:12 can help us, as it did the Corinthians, to prefer others: First, as God's representative, *"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient..."* We are under grace and free to do all things. However, as mature believers we can make wise decisions by yielding to what the doctrine teaches. All options in life are not expedient (advisable). Some decisions do not serve Christ or the best interests of others; some things would not be a godly choice. (Ask yourself: Does my decision line up with sound doctrine to live God's will and manifest godliness, with love?)

Second, as we live Christ, *"...all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."* The lust of the flesh, together with the lures/obstacles of this world can have great power over us. It will affect our love response to each other. We have choices: Will we be joined to the world, demanding our rights or see as God sees? Saints are beloved members of Christ.

In order to live as God designed, being members of His Body and ambassadors in His stead, we need to grow and develop the mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16), being conformed to His image. (Rom. 8:29) Then, we can make the kind of wise decisions that enable us to stay focused above, glorifying God.

Think on this: Do you have God's view of other saints in your local assembly? Describe. [\(Continued on page 4\)](#)

A Godly Walk Requires Trust

Trust refers to being 'fully persuaded,' having a firm belief in what is reliable; a confident hope. God desires that you trust Him as your all-sufficiency, in order to walk godly. He justified you by simple 'faith' in Christ's blood, and it's by this same faith in God's provision that you're able to live your life unto Him. *"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."* (Rom. 1:17) God alone is your ultimate, perfect Provider: *"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."* (I Tim. 4:10)

However, trust in God's wisdom and power requires faith and confidence. Do you know how to do this? Alone, in the flesh, **man is unable**. God's design is to renew the mind; that is, read, think on, and digest His Word, being led by the Spirit: *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."* (Romans 12:2)

As you trust what you're taught in the Word, it enables you to yield your valuable time and energy to read and apply it, **knowing its great value**. *"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you"*. (Rom. 6:17)

It is wise to become self-aware in order to live your resurrection life. If thoughts or behavior are inconsistent with what the Spirit is teaching, think about the process of being dead to sin and alive unto God (Romans 6). Consider the 'Y' in the road. Will you yield to the right to allow Christ to live/reign in your life? God will then put aside your fleshly thinking, emotions, and lusts to yield unto His Word. This enables you to get off the fleshly path on the left side of the 'Y,' to serve Him. Even when there is fear, God is able to help you push through challenges to make wise decisions.

The Corinthians didn't want to suffer; it's not easy to 'live unto God.' When the flesh is not center stage, feelings, thoughts, and behavior tend to resist. That's why we all need to trust God and His provision to do it. Paul wrote I Corinthians to help them see that some decisions and judgments are ungodly and actually opposed God. Therefore, strong correction was needed. Trust is developed slowly, by believing what God says in the Word. This trust takes time, enabling us to walk by faith, even in hard times.

Taking A Wrong

How many of us have lived through situations where we were in the right, but remained quiet, and took the wrong? Dealing with a spouse, friends, adult children, or those in the local assembly can provide many opportunities that allow us the privilege to prefer others, even just to hold our tongue. In our very core, we may know we're right, yet we are silent. Why do we do this?

As a saint, we allow a wrong because it manifests God's love working in us. There's no eternal good to insist on being right, that would be all about 'self.' Instead, we can prefer others: *"Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification."* (Romans 15:2) We can *"Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not."* (Romans 12:14)

Knowing God will 'make all things right,' we don't have to take vengeance. This gives us freedom, peace, and rest to endure any wrong and respond in grace. Romans 12 provides great direction in these things, like: *"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men...Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good."* (Rom. 12:17-18,21)

Finally, there are many rewards for living unto God i.e. *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* (II Cor. 5:10)

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Stamp

To:

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)

As Believers, Do We Have the Proper View? (Continued from page 2)

Toward Self: Realizing the body and spirit are God’s is basic in our walk (I Cor. 6:20), but we also need to know about our new and glorious identity in the Lord Jesus Christ. This produces resurrection life as we yield to and apply sound doctrine from Scripture. God quickened our dead spirit when we became a believer. Now we have new life in Christ. As we are conformed to His image, we can live a life pleasing to Him. Therefore, it’s important to have a good grasp of Romans 6-8:

-Romans 6: We are now closely identified with the Lord Jesus’s death, burial, and resurrection. *“For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.”* (Rom. 6:5) Each of us also has new choices; we can choose to yield and live unto God in righteousness.

-Romans 7: God separated sin from our new, inward man: *“Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.”* (Rom 7:17) There is a battle within us, *“...bringing me into captivity to the law of sin...”* (Vs 23) Our flesh can’t keep the law; many saints keep trying their whole life, but fail. Why? Only **God is able**.

-Romans 8: God is NOT focused on our fleshly decisions, or behavior. Rather, His desire is our mind. As we become conformed to the image of Christ and allow the Word, by the Spirit to dwell in us, **God in us is able** to mortify the deeds of the body. *“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”* (Rom. 8:6) The key is to stop trusting in ‘our efforts’ and just yield to God. **He is able**.

Understanding by faith, the basics of who God made them in Christ, enabled the Corinthians to live as God desired. The first epistle to the Corinthians may seem a bit harsh, but they needed strong reproof and correction, along with instruction in righteousness (II Tim. 3:16) to begin to walk in a godly manner and grow up, no longer remaining carnal babes. Once Paul helped them with an attitude adjustment, II Corinthians was written to further mature the Church in the fundamentals. Saints today also need this instruction to negotiate this evil world and deal with the grievous tendencies in the flesh. God does all the work, all we need to do is yield in faith!

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