

Spiritual Gluttony

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saved, yet many have not even made one attempt to tell another how to be saved. A sermon showed them how it is stealing from God not to tithe (Malachi 3:8-10). They nodded their head in agreement with the preacher on that matter, yet they still have never faithfully given to the local church part of what they have earned that week. An accidental hearing of a radio message convicted them deeply of a sin they were involved in, and their guilt over the sin's commission had bothered them for a while, but they still have not made one attempt to curb their sin. On and on the list could go of truths they have heard from the Word of God. Admittedly, most know what God wants them to do, and what He does not want them to do. Yet, all that knowledge lies somewhere in their brain; unused and unapplied.

Many are appalled at those that have gained enormous

amounts of weight. They shake their head as television interviews reveal people that weigh 500 pounds or more. They diagnose the eaters problem quickly; the overweight person is eating more calories than he is burning up in exercise or daily usage. They see how dangerous it is for the heavy one to sit all day in front of the television consuming bags of chips, and other junk foods. Yet, they do not see the parallel between one who eats more than he uses and their own spiritual fatness of absorbing the things of God and utilizing very little of what they have heard. Spiritually, they have become obese, yet they do not see their unhealthy spiritual condition. They hear preaching, read their Bible, go to church often, and even listen to Christian radio and television regularly. However, it only goes in, and very little spiritually comes out of what they have learned.

I have heard many "obese" Christians wax eloquent. They boast of how many years they

have attended church, or how much Scripture they know. I have often felt dumb after hearing them give a demonstration of their head knowledge of the scriptures. They are quite knowledgeable. However, that feeling goes away when I hear their testimony of never having witnessed to one soul, never having done anything for the Lord but sit and soak, or never having shown any signs of spiritual growth in their lives.

What are you doing with the things of God you have heard? God did not allow you to learn His ways just for you to appear smart about the things of God, or to inflate your pride. He allowed you to hear His message, so that you would do for Him what He desires. Are you doing what God has shown you to do? Are you burning spiritual calories?

Scriptures related to this subject: James 1:22-25, Matthew 7:21, Luke 6:46, Luke 11:28, Luke 12:48, Romans 2:13, 1 John 3:7.

The Natural Man

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missing in their lives. The reason that they are not grasping biblical truths or are not Spirit led is that they are "natural" men and women. They are either not born-again and cannot have a relationship with the Lord until they are saved, or may be saved and are so worldly-minded that they could not hear the convicting Spirit of God if He blew an air-horn in their left ear. A

"natural" man is one that is just the way they were born, without any spiritual alterations, illuminations, and connections.

No one can understand the things of God unless the Holy Spirit shows them to him (vs. 11). A person can have a head-knowledge of biblical and spiritual things, but unless the Holy Spirit is involved there will never be a connection between what the brain knows, and what the spiritual "heart" of a person believes. Educated preachers have been in left field in regards to understanding the things of God, because they were under their own power of understanding and not the Holy Spirit's. Education alone does not make the "connection".

Preaching and the things of God are not appreciated and meaningless to a "natural" man. However, the preaching of the Word of God is important to a saved man. The exhortation of God's Word and its teaching are spiritual food to a spiritual person. It encourages, guides, and strengthens a child of God. To him, it is foolish not to be at church, where God's Word is taught.

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." — James 1:22-2

"A child on a rocking horse is much like many Christians; plenty of motion, but no progress."

James 1:22

A	R	Y	T	H	Y	W	P	D	Y	A	M	T	U	B
L	Z	Q	H	X	S	J	O	B	Z	Y	J	U	E	D
F	A	S	U	Q	J	R	I	G	E	E	W	Z	J	O
E	O	Y	E	E	A	E	K	M	A	L	P	R	H	E
X	N	W	T	L	B	S	R	E	R	A	E	H	A	R
L	O	O	N	N	V	X	H	I	D	J	K	X	H	S
D	T	G	B	Q	B	E	I	L	B	I	E	M	B	E
F	E	L	J	I	F	E	S	A	D	W	U	O	L	N
L	I	C	E	Y	O	W	C	L	T	R	B	H	S	J
W	R	Q	E	M	J	Y	S	J	G	E	C	R	L	M
O	R	L	M	I	V	V	M	D	N	A	B	J	Q	B
R	X	T	O	K	V	Y	Z	X	W	Y	G	K	M	V
D	A	N	H	N	K	I	O	H	U	O	K	N	O	T
W	R	E	Q	E	L	Z	N	R	U	O	Y	X	R	V
E	P	U	J	S	P	Y	W	G	Q	E	B	V	M	V

Words to Find:
But
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deceiving
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own
selves.

The Natural Man

Bill Brinkworth

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” I Corinthians 2:14

Many people try to understand the things of God, but they never truly grasp their truths, nor do they seem real to them. They may have studied the Scriptures, memorized them, and appeared very knowledgeable of biblical facts, but there still seemed to be a veil that did not allow them to grasp

the truths from the Word of God. Preaching also may be entertaining and even interesting to them, but the truths spoken to them from the pulpit never get into their heart and change anything in their lives. Many even feel church attendance is meaningless, and that is why they seldom attend.

It is often not the preacher’s fault that they “get nothing from the service” or that they “do not feel convicted”. This verse in I Corinthians 2 puts the finger on who some of them really are, and why there is a spiritual connection

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Spiritual Gluttony

Bill Brinkworth

Many have had the opportunity to hear scriptural teaching again and again. From the pulpit they have heard what God wants them to do. From



television, radio, and biblical-based articles they have also heard what God’s will for them is. Christian acquaintances and family members may also have voiced biblical principles. All the biblical input has fattened their head knowledge of spiritual and biblical things, but they have not reacted or moved on what they have learned. They are hearers of God’s Word, but are not doers of His commandments (James 1:22-25).

Through preaching they have heard a clear message on what the Bible says one must do to be saved, yet they have not trusted Christ alone as their way to heaven. They have heard how God expects each and every child of God to tell others how to be

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The Hedge on the Way to the Mansion

Dr. J. Hamilton

Reconciliation to God is like entering the gate onto a beautiful road, which takes one to a splendid mansion. The avenue is long, and in some places it skirts the edge of dangerous cliffs. To save the traveller from falling over their edges, where he would be dashed to pieces, there is a fence of hedges.

That hedge is God’s commandments. They are planted there so that we may do ourselves no harm. Like a fence of briar, they protect the one traveling the road if he keeps to the road. They only hurt him when he tries to break through the hedge.

Temperance, justice, truthfulness, purity of speech and behavior, obedience to parents, mutual affection, the worship of God; all these are righteous requirements, and in keeping them there is great reward; there is also no damage done by the possible “thorns” of life. Happy is he who stays on the “road” and never feels the pricks of the hedges by breaking God’s commandments.

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