



**I need to develop godly attitudes.**

- A) Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- B) Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- C) Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

**Attitudes.**

- 1) God has no Plan B. After the Fall, Jesus Christ crucified was always God's Plan A.
- 2) Am I living today as God's slave or God's "son"?
- 3) "Come Holy Ghost my soul inspire and lighten with celestial fire."

**I need to grow in prayer.**

A great way to do this is to learn to pray the Bible. Pray this prayer until you can pray without reading:

*Heavenly Father, almighty God, I confess that I often live with anxiety, as if I am Your slave. Please help me to live with confidence that You are the good Father who has adopted me as Your child and heir. Please pour out the Holy Spirit upon me, so that I will know that, by faith in Jesus Christ, You have fully saved me - I am redeemed from slavery and adopted as Your child with all the rights and privileges of being Your child. In Jesus' name. Amen!!*

**I need to get God's word in my mind and heart.**

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, Galatians 3: 26 (NIV)*

**I need to do something or start to do something.**

Complete the following sentence: "In light of God's word, the Holy Spirit is leading me to \_\_\_\_\_."

**GOING DEEPER**

**Getting to know me**

How do you refer to your father now? How did you address him when you were a child?

**Getting into the Bible**

You cannot understand the Bible on your own. Ask the Father to pour out the Holy Spirit upon you as you read - to instruct, convict and guide.

- Read Galatians 3: 26- 4:7
- Read Galatians 3: 27. Other passages about "putting on": Romans 13:12; Ephesians 4: 12-17; 6: 10-20; Colossians 3:12.
- Read Galatians 4:5. Another passage on adoption: Romans 8: 18-25
- Read Galatians 4:6. More on God as Abba: Mark 14:36; Romans 8: 12-17.

**Getting Real**

What has the Lord brought to your mind as you read? Pray about this. Ask someone else to pray for you as well.

**THE BIBLE IS "OUTSIDE-IN"**

Dear friends,

Last week I looked at part of Galatians 3 to show what the Bible says about itself. What we see in those 25 verses is what we see from cover to cover in the Bible. Simply put, the Bible claims to be God's word written. There are human authors of the Bible but, ultimately, God worked through these authors so that what was written was what He wanted written. So, in a very real sense, to hear the Bible is to hear God speaking.

I know this is a big claim! I know that, "just because the Bible says it does not make it true." In other words, we Christians need to give an account for why the Bible is the true and trustworthy word from God. But first, let's think about what Christians are and are not claiming.

To undermine Christian claims, people will often tell me the analogy of the blind men and the elephant. The blind men are religions and their scriptures. The elephant is God. One blind man holds on to the elephant's leg and says God is like a strong tree that goes high. Another blind man holds on to the elephant's trunk and says God is supple and responsive. I could go on, but you know the rest. The point made is that we are blind and only touching one part of a very big elephant.

Ironically, this analogy reveals the opposite of what the person telling it hoped. You see, the speaker is actually (and usually to their horror and disbelief when pointed out) making a hugely arrogant claim. They are claiming that they are not blind but see; that they know the whole elephant while all religions are blind and only know part of the elephant. But, how can they possibly validate such a momentous claim, that they and their like-minded friends **alone** know the whole elephant?

Now, you might say that Christians are also making an arrogant claim, but this is to misunderstand the Christian belief. We, that is orthodox Christians, do not believe that our ideas and our words are so great that they can get outside of creation to accurately know the Creator God. We are not claiming that mere finite believers are able to encompass the infinite God and then speak truly about God with their words. We are not claiming our symbols have reached the heavens to make God known.

Orthodox Christians believe that God has spoken. We believe God has come from "outside" to "inside" the created order to speak to us and to save us! He knows Himself, and He speaks truly about Himself in our language. He tells us true truth and sufficient truth but not exhaustive truth. An orthodox Christian, then, is making a humble claim; that the Bible is all God's work, not ours, and that God is speaking. All we are doing is listening. We are beggars telling other beggars where to go to hear God speak and save.

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