

Keys To Spiritual Growth

Galatians 4 v. 19

Here are the three scriptural keys to help you grow and mature spiritually:

Conception. This results from intimacy between two people who love each other. Now, God's love for you is clear and compelling (see **1 John 3 v. 1**); the question is how much do you love Him? (see **John 21 v. 15**.)

Forming. Paul writes, *'My little children, for whom I labour in birth again until Christ is formed in you.'* God knows the tests and trials required to produce in you the character of Christ, and He will do whatever it takes to make it happen.

Pushing. When you're fully committed to bringing forth what God's placed within you, you'll have to push against every negative thing people have done to you or said about you. You'll have to push against Satan's attacks in all their debilitating forms: painful memories, feelings of hopelessness, and low self-esteem.

The enemy may have spent years pushing you aside, pulling you back, and putting you down, but God will empower you to give birth to what He's placed in you.

And here's something else to think about: when a baby is born, everything in the family changes. And the same is true for you. When you give birth to what God has put inside you, everything in your life will be affected.

God's blessing is an **'overflowing'** blessing; it will touch every area of your existence. Just as a mother can tell when she's pregnant, the same is true in the spiritual realm.

So don't fail to give birth to what's within you. Now is the time to bring it forth!

PRAYERS POINTERS

- Pray for those of our fellowship who are still unwell at this time.
- Pray for the community of Sandown. Its residents, schools, shops and people
- Pray for the children's work that happens in our church. Pray for the summer break that they will be having.
- Pray for those whose lives are shattered by world events.
- Pray for the other churches in the locality. Pray for their Church Leaders and the work they do in their churches and the community.
- Pray for the summer holidays and the safety of all as they holiday on the Island or elsewhere.

Which 'Law' Are You Operating Under?

Romans 8 v. 2

You say, **'I fall so far short of God's standards. Will there ever come a time when my old carnal nature will stop acting up, and trying to drag me down?'** There's bad news and there's good news.

The bad news is, just as the law of gravity is always in operation, so is **'the law of sin'** that your fleshly nature wants to respond to. The good news is, you can access a higher law and operate in it. It's called **'the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus'**, and it overrides **'the law of sin and death'**.

The law of gravity says that what goes up must come down. But when you're in an aeroplane another law is in operation – the law of aerodynamics. It works like this: the plane moves at a certain speed, and the proper thrust enables it to climb out of gravity's pull. That doesn't mean the law of gravity is no longer the law of gravity. Getting the idea?

You ask, **'What is this law of the Spirit?'** Good question. Here's the answer.

When you're indwelt by the Holy Spirit and relying on His power rather than your own, which means being sensitive to His leading and obeying His commands, you're no longer controlled by **'the law of sin and death'**.

It's no longer about trying harder, but leaning harder on God's Spirit who lives within you and drawing from Him the strength to live victoriously.

We tend to fall into one of two traps: **1) Thinking too much of ourselves.** Harry Truman was thrust into the presidency by the death of Franklin Roosevelt. That's when Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House, took him aside and said, 'From here on out you're going to have lots of people around you, and they are going to tell you what a great man you are. But Harry...you know and I know you ain't.' Truman took that advice to heart, and became a truly great president. To succeed in the assignment God has given you in life you need two things – dependence on God and confidence in God (see 1 John 3 v. 21, 22). As long as those two things are in place you'll succeed. **2) Thinking too little of ourselves.** Many of us have made it our goal to change someone's opinion of us; to prove to them that we're valuable. Until you stop agreeing with the opinions of those who criticise you, you'll remain locked in a prison of your own making. When your critic's opinion becomes your opinion, you've built a prison inside your soul with only one prisoner – you. The fact is some of the people you've spent your life trying to impress may never be impressed. And you need to accept that from God's perspective, it doesn't matter! To succeed, you must be able to work alongside others without letting yourself be controlled by their moods and opinions. That's why Paul wrote, 'I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.'

Many Thanks Today Goes To...

Serving Tea & Coffee today are . . .
Paula Bashford & Michelle Moore

Flowers today were provided by . . .

Our Stewards today have been . . .
Sheila Rayner & Rene Duff

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME FOR JULY 2018



26th July
Yvonne Farnbank

Welcome to SANDOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

Our Vision is to . . .
Reach others with Christ's love as we learn to follow Him



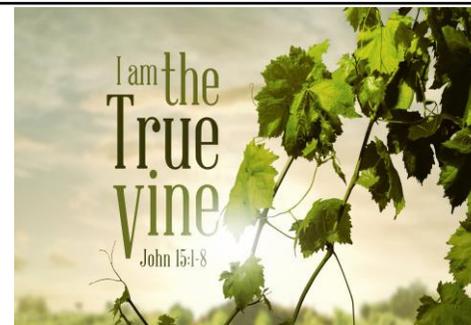
SUNDAY 15th JULY 2018

10.30 am Morning Worship

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian Lovell
Preacher: Rev. Ian Lovell

Theme: Jesus Said: 'I Am The True Vine.'

Reading: John 15 v. 1 – 17



We give a warm welcome to everyone who has joined us today, especially if you are new here or are just visiting us for the day.

If you are visiting then please take the opportunity to sign our visitor's book before you leave today. If you are new to the church and wish to find out more of what we do here, then please make yourself known to our Minister or one of the Welcome Team.

Please stay seated throughout the service if you prefer. Refreshments are served at the end of the service in the vestibule and you are very welcome to stay and fellowship with us.

Our Church Text for 2018

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonders.
I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9 v. 1 - 2

CHURCH FINANCES FOR THE MONTH TO 8th JULY 2018

Budgeted offerings needed (incl. Gift Aid) for the month of July = **£3,479.17**

Cumulative offering for July = **£1,437.09**

Gift Aid still to be claimed for July = **£236.77**

SHORTFALL from budgeted offerings for the month of July = **£1,805.30**
(Shortfall is determined by Gift Aid still to be claimed)

GIFT DAY 2018 total to date = £1,418.38 incl. Gift Aid = **£1,757.98**

STRAWBERRY TEA raised **£201.55** towards our giving for Home Mission

CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday 17th July

Prayer Meeting 10.00am - 11.00am

Wednesday 18th July

Coffee & Bible Study 10.00am – 11.45am

We will be looking at Daniel 4 v. 1 – 37 ~ Our God Reigns!

Thursday 19th July

House Groups 7.30pm

Sunday 22nd July

Morning Worship 10.30am

(Michelle Moore will be leading our Family Service today.)

Minister:

Rev. Ian Lovell Tel: 01983 402119 E-mail: pastor@sandownbaptist.church

Children's Co-Ordinator:

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