

## “Growing Up God’s Way”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Ponder this with me. How do we know if we are growing? How many of us can go to the homes where we grew up and point to the section of wall, or the door or corner where our parents marked how tall we were at what age so we and our siblings could keep track of how tall we were getting?

Going to the spiritual paradigm, how can we tell if we are growing spiritually? The scripture tells us:

<sup>31</sup> But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. 1 Cor. 11:31 (NIV)

If we objectively look at our progress and make the necessary changes, God will not have to correct us in those areas. So, back to the original question, how do we know we are truly growing in God’s ways? Consider: <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 1 John 4:16 (NIV)

God being love, the more we learn to love and walk in love toward all people, the more we grow in God’s ways. Everything God has asked of us is based in love.

Notes:

Loving God, we want to be obedient. Through love, we are kinder to others. Love encourages us to forgive those that have injured us. Love brings us to respect ourselves and others. Love also strengthens us to, when appropriate, tell people harsh truths. (There is a place for tough love—on some occasions telling people what they do not want to hear is a loving act. Discernment is needed for this.)

God even has given us a definition of love so we can make sure we are hitting the mark. Think on these words: <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:10-12

The Sojourner  
Sojourner's Fellowships  
717-C West High Street  
Manchester, TN 37355-1694

Phone: 931-409-1406  
Toll Free: 800-391-6944

Email:  
[thesojourner@sojournershub.org](mailto:thesojourner@sojournershub.org)



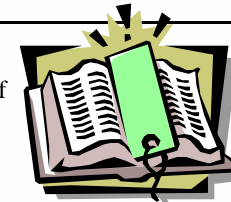
# Sojourning

Vol. 6 No. 32 October 20, 2007

...with The Sojourner

## “Godly Provocation” (Teaching Sketch) By Pastor Simpkins

Hebrews 10:14-25



**Better Things**  
Hebrews is the book of better things - a better covenant, a better priest and a better hope.

In the Old Testament period rituals and sacrifices for sin were performed daily because the blood of animals could not take away sin, they could only cover it. It remained there, hidden from view, looking toward the Perfect Sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

Likewise, the people had to look to an external source - either Moses or the priesthood to know what God expected of them. God had desired to speak to them individually, but they had run away in fear and said they wanted Him to speak through Moses, etc. lest they die. (Exodus 20:19-20)

**The End Of Sacrifices**  
In contrast, the New Covenant is internal. By training through the work of the

Notes:

[1] paroxus-mos  
*par-ox-oos-mos* ("paroxy sm");  
*incitement* (to good), or *dispute* (in anger):—  
contention, provoke unto.  
From *par-oxuno*, to *sharpen along-side*, that is, (figuratively) to *exasperate*:—  
easily provoke, stir.

Spirit, God's laws are being written on our hearts and made a part of our very nature, which has been born again - a new creation! The sin problem that was at the core of our being has been nailed to the cross and died when Jesus did. Because He was the perfect sacrifice, there is no more need for an offering to take care of sin - "it is finished"!

### A New Way Into The Holy Of Holies

Because of the work of Jesus on the cross, no longer are we barred from entering into God's presence. There is no hindrance blocking us from coming before His throne in praise and supplication. We partake of Him in the Lord's table and all that He is becomes our nature too.

If we falter, the way is clear for us to come and seek cleansing for ourselves. We no longer have to fear "an angry God", for we have pardon through faith in Christ's

## Scripture:

### Hebrews 10:14-25 (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

<sup>15</sup> The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

<sup>16</sup> "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord.

I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>17</sup> Then he adds:

"Their sins and lawless acts

I will remember no more."<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>18</sup> And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

#### Notes:

[a]  
Jer.  
31:33

[b]  
Jer.  
31:34

<sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

## “Godly Provocation” (Teaching Sketch) By Pastor Simpkins

Hebrews 10:14-25

shed blood.

### Support Each Other In Faith

We need to encourage each other to hold tight in our walk of faith. The Greek word for "provoke" is Paroxusmos.<sup>[1]</sup> It is not a negative connotation as used here. It means 1) to incite or 2) to irritate. If we see a brother or sister growing weak spiritually, we

Pastor John Simpkins,  
today's guest speaker.



should provoke them to hold fast to what God has done in their life. This is a common theme in the epistles.

We are not alone in this walk, but are part of God's family. As family, we need to be with each other when we can, for then Christ is also in our midst. The saying about "strength in numbers" is so true and this fellowship is vital to each of us. It is in gathering together that we can support and exhort each other to continue on to the day of His soon appearing.

### Just so you'll know:

**Our service is informal.** We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
  - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
  - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

