

Doctrinal Studies

Failing God's Wonderful Plan

There are six areas where a born again believer can fail to receive spiritual food and fail in the magnificent plan which God has for him:

1. Refusal to Hear or Primary Non-perception. This is a person who chooses to stay away from the dissemination and impartation of God's Truth. This is the person who fails to assemble. Heb 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is..." This person is subjecting himself to the expression of God's love in discipline.
2. Refusing to Be in Harmony or Rejecting the Filling of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, and can only be received by means of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. When a person fails to take advantage of Restoration to Fellowship (RTF) then he is not prepared to receive the spiritual food. Not being filled with the Spirit makes it impossible to get the Truth, therefore the Word of God does not become useable spiritual food for the soul.
3. Refusal to Accept and Apply God's Truth by Faith or Secondary Non-perception. This person hears God's Word while filled with the Holy Spirit, and comprehends what is being communicated. But he does not utilize and apply the truth to life. James describes this person as being a "hearer" but not a "doer" of the Word. In order to appropriate all of the marvelous things God designed for each of us personally in eternity past we must be both "hearers" and "doers" of the Word; we must hear and receive the Word in faith (primary perception) and utilize and apply God's Truth to our lives by faith (secondary perception).
4. Refusal to Be Consistent in Bible Study. This is the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who, when in times of disaster, adversity, or pressure, becomes temporarily interested in God and His Word. Then when all is again well, prosperity has come, the pressure has eased, and things are going smoothly, this person begins to neglect the intake of spiritual food. There are many side issues, any one of which can hinder or distract believers from the real issue: the Lord and His Word.
5. Non-perception susceptibility. This is the born-again believer who has consistently and faithfully for a number of years received daily spiritual food for his soul. Then, monotony strikes! For a person to become a great athlete he has to be consistent in monotonous, unvarying, wearisome uniformity in working out, the same thing over and over again. To play an instrument well you have to practice the same notes over and over and over again. But when the boredom and frustration with the monotony strikes—as it invariably does—the believer will rapidly plunge to the low road of indifference unless he is alert to the danger and doggedly keeps to the routine.
6. Non-perceptive Emotionalism. This believer lets his emotions rule his soul rather than biblical objectivity. God gave us emotions so that we could properly appreciate and enjoy the manifold blessings He has given us. But He never intended that we should be slaves to our emotions, which is what we become if we allow emotions to rule us, and not the Biblical, objective standard of the Word of God, which is what God designed to rule our lives.