

Five Stages of Growth

(+ Brephos & Neaniskos)

(08/15/2021)

Ephesians 4: 14 translation:

"In order that no longer we may be immature ones (Nepios – can't talk or speak) tossed to and fro and carried around in circles by every wind of teaching and the cunning adroitness (cleverness or skill) of man, in craftiness which furthers the scheming deceitful art of error." (Wuest)

"So that we are no longer children [spiritually immature], tossed back and forth [like ships on a stormy sea] and carried about by every wind of [shifting] doctrine by the cunning and trickery of [unscrupulous man, by the deceitful scheming of people ready to do anything [for personal profit]]." Amplified

(unity -> faith that comes from the knowledge of God)

2 Corinthians 10:4,5

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imagerations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ,..."

Weapons – *hoplon* – This word is always used in the plural. They are weapons to wage war, instruments.

- "*Hoplon*" (instruments to wage war) underlines that God always gives all the resources we need to prevail in every form of spiritual warfare- as we live (walk) by faith in the Word of God, and the God of the Word.
- 2 Corinthians 6: 7; Romans 13: 12, 6: 11- 14

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

In Jewish tradition, the eating of unleavened bread (MATZAH), commemorates the original exodus from Egypt. Since there wasn't enough time for the dough to rise when the nation of Israel fled Egyptian bondage, the Lord memorialized the event in Deu. 16:3.

To fulfill this commandment, the Jews would prepare for Passover by removing all traces of leaven from the house. Leaven (yeast) produces fermentation, especially in dough, and as a result of natural processes of decay. Therefore, yeast is REMOVED from the house and according to the command to "remove all leaven from your houses." (Exodus 12: 15, 13: 7; Deu. 16:4)

This ceremony was performed on the night before Passover. This was called "BEDIKAT CHAMETZ" or "cleaning out the leaven."

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Chametz, or leaven, is considered a corrupting influence, a hidden uncleanness that manipulates purer elements. Just like when leaven is placed or hidden in dough, spiritual leaven functions as the evil impulse within us that corrupts and sours our soul. This yeast, in the soul man, is essentially pride that manifests itself in idolatrous desires and lusts.

— Lucifer - Isaiah 14: 14

— Adam and Eve - Genesis 3: 5, 6

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10: 13

(1 Cor. 10:13 Amplified)

“No temptation [regardless of his source] has overtaken you or enticed you that is not common to human experience, [nor is any temptation unusual or beyond human resistance]; But God is faithful [to his word - he is compassionate and trustworthy], and will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, [to resist], but along with the temptation he, has in the past and is now and, will [always] provide the way out as well, so that you will be able to endure it, [without yielding, and will overcome temptation with joy]!

James 1: 12- 18

“Now, our weapons are not carnal but mighty through or in God to the pulling down of strongholds...”

Witchcraft is considered works of the flesh.

Satan does not know your future. He guesses based on your choices or areas where he has had past victories.

Carnal – *SARKIKA* - fleshly, carnal, earthly.

- From *SARX*; pertaining to the flesh, for example bodily, temporal

Mighty – *DUNATOS'*- powerful or capable literal or figurative, able

- from *DUNAMAI*, the ability to blow things up or blast things open

Pulling down/ demolish – *KATHAIRESIS* (Kath-ah'-ee-res-is)

- Demolition; fig. extinction: destruction, pulling down, razing

Strongholds - *Ochuroma* – meaning to fortify through the idea of holding safely; a castle (fig. argument);

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- Stronghold, prison (holding in and keeping out)

Imaginations – *logismos*’ – computation that is (fig.) reasoning (conscious conceit): imagination, thought

High thing – *hup’soma* - an elevated place or thing that is (abstractly) altitude or (by implication) a barrier (What a fool believes he sees, no wise man has the power to reason away.)

Against – *Kata* - here it denotes intense opposition

The knowledge of God – *gnosis theos* - knowledge, doctrine, wisdom of the very God or the true and living God.

Ephesians 4:15 [Truth Joined with Love]

“But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into him who is the head – Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies according to the effective working by which every part does its share causing growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Speaking the truth – *ALETHEUO* (al-ayth-yoo’-o), (literally “truthing”)

- Speaking reality (truth) into a person's life, making a record of what God deems is truth (reality, fact)

Aletheuo (literally, “to truth”) includes spirit- led confrontation where it is vital to tell the truth so others can live in God's reality rather than personal illusion. (key-God's reality)

Romans 1:16-25

The weapons of our warfare are not called an armor of good, but an armor of light.

Speaking the truth in love!

Gal. 6:1

Truth spoken w/o love can be brutal.

Love spoken w/o truth is hypocrisy and brutal.