

A Spiritual Progress Report

II Peter 1:4-11

Looking back...

- 186 =
 - 52 Sunday Sermons
 - 52 Sunday Bible Studies
 - 52 Wednesday Bible Studies
 - 30 Conference Sessions

*“If you don't learn from the past,
you are bound to repeat it.”*

The Test of Spiritual Growth

II Peter 1:4-11

1. Faith
2. Virtue
3. Knowledge
4. Self-Control
5. Perseverance
6. Godliness
7. Brotherly Kindness
8. Love

1. Faith

You are “one year older” with the Lord at the end of 2009, if you are more established in your faith.

- Romans 1:8-12,17
- Being established in faith
 1. Begins by the gift of the Holy Spirit
 2. Grows by abounding in love
 3. Results in faith being evident to all

2. Virtue

You were no fool in 2009, if you gave away what you could not keep to gain that which you cannot lose.

- Colossians 4:2-6
- The “Undivided” Life
 1. Attitude – prayer and thanksgiving at all times
 2. Behavior – always treating things/people the way God does
 3. Conversation – only speaking pure eternal words

3. Knowledge

If you pursued charm and beauty in 2009, then you are more carnal today; if you pursued the fear of the Lord, then you are more spiritual.

- Proverbs 1:7,29
- If you fear God you need fear nothing else.
(Isaiah 8:12-13; TLB)

4. Self-Control

It would be a tragedy indeed if in 2009 you witnessed the empty tomb, but never experienced the same resurrection power in your own life!

- Philippians 3:10-11
- Power over
 - spiritual forces of darkness
 - sin
 - Self

5. Perseverance

If you heard, and justified yourself, God was not able to justify you in 2009. If you heard and DID, then you are justified.

- I Timothy 6:14
- James 1:21-25

6. Godliness

If you lived a life of “un-faith” in 2009 and God allowed your prayers to be answered, it's a great tragedy. You probably got what you wanted, but you didn't get God!

- Romans 1:24-28
- “God gave them...”
- Ask yourself who benefitted the most from your life in 2009 (II Corinthians 4:4)
 - if it was Christ, then you have the gospel
 - if it was something or someone else, you have an “un-gospel”.

7. Brotherly Kindness

If your relationship of brotherly kindness with any other member of the Church has broken down in 2009, then the Devil has successfully attacked God's work in your life.

- Nehemiah 5:1-12
- Ephesians 4:32
- Colossians 3:13
 - “bearing with”, is greater than “putting up with”
 - forgiving as God forgave

8. Love

The “pulse” of your spiritual life in 2009 was your love for the brotherhood.

- I John 3:14-24
- You were truly a disciple of Jesus Christ in 2009 only if you were also a disciple-maker.
(Mark 1:17)