**IBADAN VARSITY CHRISTIAN UNION (IVCU-NIFES)**

**BIBLE STUDY**

THEME: MINISTERS OF CHRIST

TOPIC: KNOWING HIM: THE WORD OF GOD (MILK AND STRONG MEAT)

TEXTS: PHIL 3:10,HEB 5:11-14, 1PET 2:2, EPH 4:13-14

Introduction: Our spiritual growth is analogous to that of our physical growth: It is from childhood to adulthood, from being a baby to being a matured man. The word of God is the core instrument in raising up the kind of men that God can use. Also individual growth determines the extent and the level at which God can speak to us. God will not cast his pearl before swine lest they become trampled. May the Lord take us to a deeper realm of the knowledge of Him through His word as we study together in Jesus name. Amen.

Study Points:

* The personality of the Word of God JOHN 1:1-5,14
* In Him was life JOHN 1:4, JOHN 6: 63-64
* Begotten by the Word of God JAM 1:18, 1 PET 1:23-25
* Of whom we have many things to say HEB 5: 11
  + - * **The word of God**:
* Bread of Life: JOHN 6:48-51; 53-58; 63, PROV 4:13, 20-22,
* Source of wisdom: PROV 2:1-10
* Tool for our cleansing: EPH 5:26-27
* Instrument of deliverance and victory over sin: PSALMS 119:9; 11, (you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.)
* The compass for our journey both in receiving specific directions in our lives endeavors and having a successful Christian walk: PSALMS 119:135.
* Means to knowing God: PHIL 3:10, 2PET 1:2-4
* Tool for our growth: GAL 4:1-4, EPH 4:13-15.

All the above and more as the Holy Spirit inspires us are what we can access through the word of God, but can only be in dosage according to our spiritual status.

* Preparation to receive the Word of God. JAM 1:21-22, 1 PET 2:1-3.
* Parable of the Sower MATT 13:1-23

**Dosage**:

* + - * **Milk**: 1Pet 2:2. The formative stage (the stage of building immunity and giving all organs what is needed for proper functioning). Deprivations at this stage pose danger to the future.
* Our Christian foundation. Eph 4:14-15. Faith cometh by hearing Rom. 10:17
* Building Communion with God. 1Sam 3:6-10.
* Building Love:
  + - * **Weaning Process**: If correctly fed, the milk produces “the milk teeth” which is sign that some kind of solid food can now administered. This is a transition stage!
* ...Everyone that useth milk. Heb 5:15
* Why sit we here till we die. 2Kings 7:3, 1Cor 3:1-4, Heb 5:11, 13, Gal 4:1-13

God has so much to say unto us about himself and his Son whom he has given unto us. HEB 5:11, JOHN16:12-13. The extent to which God can speak to us is dependent on our ability to bear his word which can only be attained by Maturity (A little child is always kept out of discussion , his reaction to weighty matters is in coherent and babish. While a matured man can handle, bear, and carry such matters with more wisdom and knowledge). This also reflects in the reasons why Christ Jesus spoke in parable.

* Signs of being a babe is Carnality.

Undevelopment and infancy is reflected in the attitude, character and expressions of the individual. All matured men were once babe but to be a babe for a long time(forever immatured) is a problem to men and even God.

* Transition stage (getting weaned): Luke 2:51
* Need to be under mature hands (discipleship): Mat 13:36, 15:15, 16:18-19, Acts 18:24-26
* Assessing the word 2Tim 2:15
* the revealed word Act 2:14-21, Act 13:33-39 and the written word- with contextual meaning (book study and character study)
* All scriptures 2Tim 3:16-17
* The Holy Spirit John 14:26, 16:13-15
* Aid to study: Listening to Messages, group bible study, use of concordance, bible commentaries, and different versions of the bible.

As great as this stage is, it is still not a state of permanence. The “milk teeth” will have to go, to give space for the permanent ones, which are strong for chewing. Here comes another stage:

* + - * **Strong meat**… vs 14
* Those who by reason of use have exercised HEB 5:14
* Dealings with God: Heb 13:14, James 2:17, 1:22-25, Mat 7:25-27(msg version).
* The place of obedience John 15:10.
* Walk in the spirit Gal 5:16, John 6:63
* Practicality of Faith: Jam 2, 3
* Hindrances to hearing the Word of God
* The capacity of the man( his level of maturity) John 16:12-13