

SO YOU THINK YOU'RE GROWN NOW?

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Acts 2:14-40, Luke 22:54-62

Last Sunday we began our 21st year of organizational existence. Do you remember when you hit the age of 21? You thought you were grown even though you were still living at your mama's house. Nobody could tell you anything because you knew everything. You weren't paying bills or buying groceries but you were grown. Somebody told us that 21 is the year we become grown. What happens between the age of 18 and 21 that determines you are grown? What can you do at 21 that you can't do at ages 18-20? You can legally buy liquor and get drunk. You have the legal authority to put your picture ID down on the store counter to buy some liquor (i.e. some spirits). **Ephesians 5:18** Now that Ray of Hope is 21 years old, we think we are grown. What do grown folks do?

In an analogous way, let's say that Peter was 18 years old when he met Jesus. For three years, he walked with the Lord. In Luke 22, Jesus is on his way to Calvary. He was born to get there. Jerusalem was his place of destiny. **Luke 9:51** Nothing or nobody could stop him from getting to Jerusalem. Jesus set his face towards his place of destiny. You have to find out where God wants you to go and don't let anything or anyone deter you from getting there. If distractions come your way, tell them you are on your way somewhere. For instance, you get sidetracked when you meet someone to whom you are very attracted. You get the best job you ever had but that job keeps you so busy you become indebted to it. Then you realize later on that you haven't done what God told you to do. When Jesus gets to his city of destiny, they arrest him and take him to the high priest. On his way to the high priest, Peter disowns Jesus while in the courtyard. He denies him three times. The third time, Jesus turns around and looks at Peter. What does that look say? Jesus looked at Peter as if to say, "Peter, I trained you better than that...I thought you were grown now...what happened?" Peter felt so bad he went away and began to cry. In Luke 22, Peter acted like a child because he acted out when he was in a tight spot. When you are mature, you can maintain your ground no matter what is going on. Pastor Hale has been building Ray of Hope. So what does Ray of Hope know that God is calling us into?

Luke wrote Acts. It is just a shift in scene. The day Peter messed up, he was sitting down and depressed because he knew he had failed the Lord. None of the other disciples could cheer him up. In **Acts 2:14** Peter stood up. What gave Peter the power to stand up and show that he is 21 now...he is grown now? On the day of Pentecost, they were all together on one accord in one room waiting for something. Then the Holy Ghost came in and got them drunk (in an analogous way). They were trying to do one thing together with one focus. They were willing to do one thing; and that was God's will.

While Peter was down, the Holy Spirit let him know that he was forgiven. It was as if the Holy Spirit gave Peter a license that said 21. Peter went to the liquor store of Heaven. He put his license down to buy him some Holy Ghost liquor. He became drunk with the Holy Ghost. Peter has power now and he is going to show now that he is full of the Spirit, full of new wine. Are you full of the new wine? Did you ask God to make you drunk with the Holy Spirit? Are you grown up really now? **Acts 3:1-10** It was the Holy Ghost that helped Peter get up on his feet so he shared it with someone else to help them get up on their feet. God didn't give you a good job just for you to get your Mercedes. He gave it to you so that you can help others get blessed.

The early church gave above and beyond tithes. We think we are doing something by just giving our tithes. We owe God our tithes. When you are grown, you don't mind giving God more because you realize that God has been so good to you. Peter went to jail. He had to stand before the people he used to fear and let them know that it did not matter what they decided because he was grown now. Peter told the same people that sent Jesus to Calvary that he must obey God and not them. He had really become grown. What determines if Ray of Hope is grown now is what we do in the next 21 years. Can we make the community and the government mad because we are doing the will of God? Shouting and singing will not determine if we are grown now. There is no faking and no pretending when you are grown.

Peace.

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