

# Growing in Faith

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As we walk in the power of God's Spirit we experience spiritual growth. You may have some questions like, "What does it mean to grow spiritually?" or "How can I grow in my relationship with God?" Hopefully today we will answer these questions and continue forward in our process of growth.

## What Does it Mean to Grow Spiritually?

### 1. Know – To increase in knowledge of God's character and His love.

#### Read Philippians 3: 7-10

What was the most important thing to Paul?

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How does Paul describe all the other things in his life?

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How is Paul crediting his righteousness? Through following the law?

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#### Read Ephesians 3:16-18

What did Paul pray that we grasp?

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How are we strengthened?

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### 2. Love – We love God more deeply as we understand who He is.

#### Read Matthew 22: 37-39

What did Jesus say the greatest commandment is?

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God gave more than 600 commands in the Old Testament. Why do you think He singled this one out?

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Why is the second commandment like the first?

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#### Read Romans 13: 9,10

How does Paul sum up the entirety of God's law? Why?

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**3. Trust – We trust God more when we understand His heart towards us.**

**Read Hebrews 11:1 for a definition of faith**

**Read Galatians 2:20**

What do you think it means to live by faith?

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**4. Summary – to grow spiritually means**

- Increase your knowledge of God
- Learn to grow in love of both God and your neighbor
- Learn to trust God completely with your life

If growing spiritually is our desire, how do we accomplish knowing, loving and trusting? Growing in the following disciplines will help us develop our love for the Lord.

**Spiritual Disciplines – What God Uses to Grow us in Faith**

**1. Strengthening our relationship with God**

- **The Word** – We need to actually READ our Bible. God reveals to us His character and His plan for how we are to live. The Bible is His instruction manual for our life.

**Read 2 Timothy 3:16**

List each of the uses described for the Scriptures: \_\_\_\_\_

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We need to read, study, hear, memorize, and meditate on the Word of God.

- **Prayer** – We need to communicate with God through prayer. We can share with God our love for Him, our thoughts, our needs, and our desire to do His will.

**Read Philippians 4:6,7**

Which situations are we to pray in and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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During prayer we offer praise to God, we ask God for the forgiveness of our sins, we thank God for the blessings in our lives, and we present our requests to Him.

**Read 1 John 5:14,15**

How can you know if something you are praying for is within God's will?

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**2. Strengthening our relationship with others**

- **Fellowship** – We need to be in relationships with other Christians, sharing our common experiences of faith. We need to be surrounding ourselves with people who support and encourage our convictions. We call this fellowship.

**Read Hebrews 10: 24,25; Proverbs 27:17**

What does these verses say that fellowship will do? Where can you find Christian fellowship on a consistent basis? \_\_\_\_\_

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- **Witnessing** – We need to share with our non-Christian friends how they can come into a relationship with God. That Jesus truly does save and change lives.

**Read 1 Peter 3:15**

How does Peter state that we should share our faith? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why would you want to tell someone else about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Read Romans 1:16,17**

- **Your Personal Story** – This is telling the story of what God has done in your life. You can use this to share the salvation of God with others. Below is an outline and questions to help you start to build your story.

How was your life before you became a Christian? Here you can write what used to motivate you, what you found your significance in, and what your life was generally based upon in the past. \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you become a Christian? Here you can share the circumstances surrounding you coming to faith in Christ. You can briefly share the way someone becomes a Christian here. \_\_\_\_\_

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How is your life since you became a believer? Here you can share the differences your relationship with Christ has made in your life. What is different? What changes has the Lord made in you? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Summary

- We need to remember that God is the source of all true spiritual growth for us and for those to whom we witness (Read 1 Corinthians 3:6,7).
- Growing spiritually means to increase in the knowledge of God, to grow more in love with God, and to trust Him more completely with our lives.
- Stay in God's Word, the Bible, to see what God is like and what He desires for us. Challenge yourself to set aside 15 minutes a day (away from distractions) to spend time reading your Bible. If you are new to reading in the Bible start with any of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.
- Stay connected to God in prayer and share with Him your heart. Start a prayer journal (you can keep it on your phone so you have it close). Devote prayer time each day (start with 10-15 minutes). Free from distractions. Basic prayer starts with praise to God, thank him for the blessings in your life, confess your sins and ask for His forgiveness, submit your requests to Him.
- Stay tight with other believers, finding encouragement and strength in fellowship.
- Share your faith with others, as you have nothing to lose and they have Heaven to gain. This sometimes can be scary at first. You are eternally thankful to the person who ushered you into a relationship with Jesus. What if they would have been too nervous about sharing with you? If you truly believe in who Jesus is and what He did for you, you will realize that it is your responsibility to share the gospel with others. Leave the rest to God. Simply sharing what God has done in your life is a great, non-threatening introduction for more discussion.
- Work on your personal story. This supports the above point.

**Memory Verse: Galatians 2:20**