

Lesson 3: What must I Do to Grow Spiritually?

Introduction

Spiritual growth is a process. It does not happen automatically.

We must assume responsibilities. (Phil 2.12-13)

God works in us, but we must respond to that work.

In Depth Study

I We must pursue mature knowledge

We must read, study, memorize, meditate upon and obey the Word of God.

- Ignorance is darkness. Knowledge is light.
- Falsehood is darkness. Truth is light.
- Rebellion is darkness. Obedience is light.
- Ps119.9-16, James 1.5-6
- Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.(Ps 119:105)

II We must pursue mature character

a) *To experience the will of God in our Christian character requires commitment on our part. (Rom 12.1-2)*

“Do not act like the sinful people of the world” (*New Life*).

“Do not change yourselves to be like the people of this world.”(*New Century Version*).

“Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.” (*Amplified*).

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world.” (*New Living Translation*).

“Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould.” (*The Message*)

b) *Commitment requires ongoing attention. (1Cor.9.24-27)*

c) *We must pray.*

- We pray not because God needs our prayer. Rather, He wants our hearts.
- God wants us to live in close fellowship and relationship with Him, and prayer encourages that fellowship.
- Relationship with God is the real motive for prayer
- We must resist the temptation to view God as merely a heavenly vending machine.

d) *We must worship. (John.4.24)*

e) *Develop a rich community with others who are committed to the Lord.*

- We are NOT designed to make it alone.

- We need a support group, a place we can belong.
- We need church and the church needs us.

f) *We must exercise our spiritual gifts.*

III Our motivation in spiritual growth

a) *Our motivation to pursue spiritual growth is evident in our obedience .*

b) *Our motivation for obedience to God is our love for Him who first loved us.*

c) *Reasons to obey God:*

- If we don't obey God, we will pay a dreadful price. (Prov 6.24-29, Heb10.31; 12.5-11, 29)
- There is wisdom in His commands. (John5.3; Ps 19.7-10)
- We obey Him because we love Him. (John15.10; 2 Cor 5.14)
- We obey Him because we honor Him so highly and want to please Him.

IV Our goal in spiritual growth

a) *Our goal in spiritual growth is to become progressively more like Christ.*

b) *“Pride is the mother hen under which all other sins are hatched” (C.S.Lewis). To become ‘like Christ’ means we give up our right to self-determination, self-protection and self-gratification, and we give ourselves to God and others.*

c) *We must love God and our neighbors. (Matt 22. 37-40)*

d) *There is a link between willing obedience to God's commandments and joy in our life. (John 15.10-11)*

e) *Willing obedience truly demonstrates love (1Cor 13.4-7). Love gives. God is love and His love gives and gives and gives. When we become truly the partakers of the nature of Christ, we also become givers.*

g) *Through obedience, we take on the character of Christ.*

V Dangers in pursuing spiritual growth

a) *We try to find spiritual satisfaction in our own way, instead of God's way.*

