

FULL LIFE ESSENTIALS

The Necessity Of Spiritual Growth

WHY SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

1. God **COMMANDS** it

2 Corinthian 13:11

Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. **Grow to maturity**. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.

2. To Experience **REAL** Life.

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

- Spiritual growth is **more** of **Jesus** being expressed through **less** of **me**.

John 3:30

He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

HOW DO WE GROW SPIRITUALLY?

2 Peter 3:18

Grow in the **grace** and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- **GRACE**
God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense

- **NOURISHMENT**

1 Peter 2:2-3

Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, for now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

The key to spiritual growth is to **FEED** the life the Holy Spirit gave you at the moment of your salvation.

- **KNOWLEDGE**

New Testament knowledge implies to know through **EXPERIENCE**. Not just **HEAD** knowledge, but **HEART** knowledge.

- **RELATIONSHIP**

Knowledge is essential to growth, but it's the knowledge of a **PERSON** we should be seeking.

The full supply of **GRACE** and **KNOWLEDGE** we need comes from Christ.

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be **glory** both now and forever! Amen.

- The reason you and I exist is to bring God **GLORY**.

Isaiah 43:7

7 Bring all who claim me as their God, for ***I have made them for my glory***. It was I who created them.

- **Glory**
 - Magnificence
 - Splendor
 - Beauty
 - Wonder
 - Grandeur
 - Brilliance
 - Credit
 - Identify
 - Fame

Glorifying God means that we draw **ATTENTION** to Him and **PROMOTE** Him as worthy of all praise and honor.

Since God is **INVISIBLE**, He has created you and me to make Him **VISIBLE** so that the world may be attracted to Him.

As we grow spiritually, we reflect less and less of our **FAULTY** character and more of Christ's **PERFECT** character (glory).

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

- **Multiplied BLESSINGS**

Luke 18:28-30

28 Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!"

29 "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, 30 will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come."

- **Miraculous TRANSFORMATION**

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

WHEN DOES OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH BEGIN?

- **New Birth**

John 3:3 (TLB)

Jesus replied, "With all the earnestness I possess I tell you this: Unless you are born again, you can **never** get into the Kingdom of God."

Just like physical growth comes after a physical birth, spiritual growth comes only after a **spiritual** birth.

WHY DO WE NEED A NEW BIRTH?

Sinners sin because it is their **nature** to sin. Therefore, the only way to change someone from sinning is to transform his or her nature totally. This can only happen through a new birth.

When Adam sinned, he became contaminated with a sinful nature that has been passed on to **every person** born after him.

Isaiah 64:5-6 (NLT)

We are constant sinners; how can people like us be saved? We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.

Romans 8:8 (NLT)

...those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can **never** please God.

If we are going to be acceptable and pleasing to God, there must be a **change** in our very nature.

John 3:7 (NLT)

So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'

WHEN DO WE EXPERIENCE OUR SPIRITUAL BIRTH?

When we surrender to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and receive the promise of eternal life, He gives us a new **nature**.

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NLT)

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that **enable you to share his divine nature** and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW BIRTH

- **A Brand-New Nature**

2 Peter 1:4 (NLT)

These are the promises that **enable you to share his divine nature** and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

At the moment of our new birth (salvation) God deposits within every believer a new nature from Him, which is **holy** and **perfect**. At the same time, the Bible teaches us that our old sinful nature becomes **powerless** in our lives.

Rom 6:6-7(NLT)

We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

The old sinful nature we were born with has been crucified with Christ, put to death so that now we can live a life that is **acceptable** to God. Sin is no longer the **core** of who we are.

2 Corinthians 5:17(NLT)

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

- **The New Nature Brings New Desires**

Hebrews 10:16 (TLB)

"This is the agreement I will make with the people...: I will write my laws into their minds so that they will always know my will, and I will put my laws in their hearts so that they will want to obey them."

Our new nature gives us the desire and ability to know and please God instead of serving ourselves and sin.

1 John 3:9-10 (NLT)

Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God.

- **The New Nature Must Be Nurtured**

God deposits His new nature in us; our responsibility is to make it grow.

Our task is to do whatever is necessary to move from spiritually immature infants to spiritually mature adults.

CONCLUSION

- **Spiritual Growth Happens From The Inside Out**

Our Spiritual growth doesn't depend on what is happening around you. It depends on what is happening inside you.

Lasting growth comes from internal transformation, not just external reformation.