

# **HOW DO I DEEPEN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?**



## HOW DO I DEEPEN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? (PART ONE)

A follower of Christ should always seek to grow.

### **1 PETER 2:2 (NIV)**

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 13:11 (NIV)**

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

### **HEBREWS 5:12-13 (LB)**

You have been Christians a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others, but instead you have dropped back to the place where you need someone to teach you all over again the very first principles in God's Word.

In the following verses, the prophet Jeremiah talks about how someone established in the faith responds to crisis.

### **JEREMIAH 17:7-8 (NIV)**

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
whose confidence is in him.

They will be like a tree planted by the water  
that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;  
its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought  
and never fails to bear fruit."

One that is blessed is one established in the roots and growing in their faith. Therefore, their confidence is in God amidst crisis.

## THERE ARE 4 DISCIPLINES THAT HELP US GROW IN THE FAITH:

- VERTICAL PILLARS:

1. PRAYER
2. THE WORD

- HORIZONTAL PILLARS:

3. FELLOWSHIP
4. SERVICE



We are not meant to grow alone in the faith.  
We are supposed to grow with the fellowship of believers.

**HEBREWS 10:25 (NIV)**

Let us not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**EPHESIANS 3:17-18 (NLT)**

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ ...

The Holy Spirit did not only bring us together. The Holy Spirit has also entrusted each of us with a gift that we can use to encourage and strengthen one another

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:4,7,11 (NIV)**

**4** There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.  
**7** Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.  
**11** All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

**EPHESIANS 4:11-13, 15-16 (NIV)**

**11** Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers, **12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all ...become mature, **15** ... we will grow to become in every respect ... **16** as each part does its work.

**QUESTIONS FOR HUDDLE DISCUSSION:**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:11. In what ways is God leading you to grow up and not just grow old in the faith?
2. The 2 vertical pillars for growth are prayer and the Word. The 2 horizontal pillars are fellowship and service. Of these 4, which do you need to strengthen and why?