

WE VALUE SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Welcome Home: Part 4

October 23, 2022

Pastor Brian

"We accept people wherever they are but love them too much to leave them there. Therefore, every person has a next step."

"In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it..." (Matthew 5:48, The Message)

"We are not meant to remain as children...But we are meant to hold firmly to the truth in love, and to grow up in every way into Christ, the head..." (Ephesians 4:14, Phillips)

"...Let us grow up as believers..." (Hebrews 6:1, NIV)

God wants me to GROW UP before I go up!

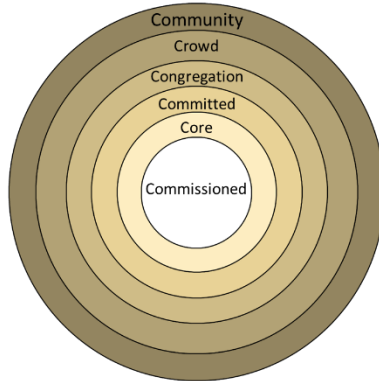
Fast Facts about Spiritual Growth

MYTH	TRUTH
Growth is automatic.	Growth is a <u>CHOICE</u> .
Growth can be quick.	Growth is a <u>PROCESS</u> .
I can grow by myself.	I can't grow without <u>OTHERS</u> .
I grow by going to church.	I grow by developing <u>HABITS</u> .
My maturity is measured by how much I know.	My maturity is measured by how much I <u>LOVE</u> .

THE LAWS OF GROWTH

1. Spiritual growth is INTENTIONAL.

"I've committed myself and I'll never turn back from living by your righteous order." (Psalm 119:106, The Message)



TRUTH: I AM AS MATURE AS I **CHOOSE** TO BE.

2. Spiritual growth is **SEQUENTIAL**.

*“Next, learn to put aside your own desires...letting God have his way with you. This will make possible the **next step**...The more you go on in this way, the more you will grow strong spiritually and become fruitful and useful to our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:6–8, The Living Bible)*



TRUTH: EVERYONE HAS A **NEXT STEP**.

3. Spiritual growth is **PRACTICAL**.

*“Work hard so God can say to you, “Well done.” Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed when God examines your work. **Know what his Word says and means.**” (2 Timothy 2:15, The Living Bible)*

4. Spiritual growth is **RELATIONAL**.

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **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.” (Hebrews 10:24–25, NIV)*

*“As iron sharpens iron, so **a friend sharpens a friend.**” (Proverbs 27:17, NLT)*

5. Spiritual growth is SEASONAL.

“To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NKJV)

“For we live by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7, NIV)

6. Spiritual Growth is PERSONAL.

“May the God of peace himself make you entirely pure and devoted to God; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept strong and blameless until that day when our Lord Jesus Christ comes back again.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23, The Living Bible)

7. Spiritual growth is DEVELOPMENTAL.

I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven...

I write to you, fathers, because you have known him...

I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one...”

(1 John 2:12–13, NIV84)

The Stages of Spiritual Maturity

- CHILD stage = ENJOYING grace.
- YOUNG stage = EMPLOYING grace.
- PARENT stage = DEPLOYING grace.



8. Spiritual growth is INCARNATIONAL.

“Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:13, NIV)

ACTION STEPS:

1ST BASE

SUN 10/30 @ 9:00 | WED 11/02 @ 5:30pm | SUN 11/06 @ 1:30pm

PEACE ½ DAY