CAMPUS
BIBLE CHURCH

October 18, 2026
Pastor Jim Cecy

"Lord, I Want to Grow Up!"

1 John 2:12-14

Introduction: Watching people grow… Watching people not grow…

I. THE DEFINITION OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

A. SPIRITUALITY — is that moment by moment decision to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. (Galatians 5:16-18)

B. SPIRITUAL MATURITY — is a life-long process of becoming like Jesus Christ and manifesting His qualities in our lives. (2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 2:12-14)

Fundamental Question #1: "How do I know I am truly a born-again Christian?"
Fundamental Question #2: "How do I know I am growing at a proper rate?"

WHAT EVERY TRUE BELIEVER HAS IN COMMON (John 1:12-13; 1 John 2:1-2)

II. THE LEVELS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY (1 John 2:13-14)

A. THE CHILD IN THE FAITH

1. Their Primary Characteristic: They know the Father (1 John 2:13; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6)

2. Their Greatest Danger: False Teaching (Ephesians 4:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:14)

B. THE YOUNG MAN (WOMAN) IN THE FAITH (1 John 2:13-14)

1. Their Primary Characteristics

a. They have learned to overcome the evil one (1 John 2:13, 14)

b. They are strong (1 John 2:14; Daniel 11:32)

c. The Word of God abides in them (1 John 2:14; Psalm 119:9-11)

2. Their Greatest Danger: The World's Value System (1 John 2:15-16)

The World's Value System: A twisted view of money, sex and power

C. THE FATHER (MOTHER) IN THE FAITH

1. Their Primary Characteristic (1 John 2:13-14)

They have a long-lasting personal relationship with Jesus Christ as an intimate friend.

2. Their Greatest Danger: An attitude that says: "I've made it." (Philippians 3:12-14; 2 Peter 3:18)

III. THE HINDRANCES TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

A. MALNUTRITION: Lack of Proper Food (1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14; 2 Timothy 2:15)

B. POISON: Eating the Wrong Food (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

C. INJURY: Doing Things That Harm Us (Sin) (Galatians 5:19-21 regarding the deeds of the flesh)

D. ATROPHY: Lack of Proper Exercise (Ephesians 4:16)

E. OVER-EXERTION: Too Much Exercise — i.e. LACK OF PROPER REST (Psalm 46:10; 2 Chronicles 20)

F. ISOLATION: Lack of Proper Fellowship (Hebrews 10:24-25)

IV. THE CHALLENGE TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

"Life is meant to be a challenge, because challenges make you grow." (Manny Pacquino)

2 Peter 3:18 – "… Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity, Amen"

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. Explain your understanding of the difference between spirituality and spiritual maturity.
2. What are the most important things Christians have in common?
3. What is the greatest danger for a child in the faith?
4. What is the greatest danger for a young man or woman in the faith?
5. What is the greatest danger for the father or mother in the faith?
6. Which of the hindrances to spiritual growth do you struggle with the most?
    - Malnutrition: A lack of solid food (sound doctrine)
    - Poison: Eating the wrong food (false teaching)
    - Injury: Doing things that harm you (sin in any form)
    - Atrophy: Not exercising your spiritual muscles (not giving time, talent, treasure)
    - Over-Exertion: A lack of proper rest (Not resting in the Lord)
    - Isolation: A lack of proper fellowship (Ignoring meeting with other believers regularly).

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