

GROWTRACK

SESSION #2: RECEIVE

Welcome to GROWTrack Session 2, let's pray and we'll dive right in...

The "R" in G.R.O.W. stands for "RECEIVE".

Receiving is such a critical posture of the heart that believers must take in order to grow. It carries with it the idea of submitting oneself to something. **(receive is more than taking)**

You will not grow SPIRITUALLY unless you fully submit to GOD'S WORD and let it shape your life.

- **1st Point to Ponder: You receive INSTRUCTION from God's Word that CULTIVATES life in the Spirit.**
 - **Read: James 1:21 (NASB)**
21 Therefore, ridding yourselves of all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.
 - There is a "putting off" and then there is a "putting on".
 - The picture is that of taking off a dirty garment and putting it aside. A person must put off every dirty thing and lay it off to the side away from himself. If he enjoys the dirt and filth, then his mind is going to be on it. His mind will not be clear, not enough to hear the Word of God. William Barclay makes the point that the Greek word for "filthiness" is taken from the Greek word "rupos". The word is sometimes used to refer to wax in the ear. The picture is descriptive: a person with wax in the ear cannot hear the Word of God, not clearly. Therefore, he must take the wax out of his ear and put it away or else he will be deaf to the Word of God.
 - **HEARING God's word doesn't mean you are RECEIVING or ACCEPTING God's word.**
 - **Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NASB)**
13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of mere men, but as what it really is, the word of God, which also is at work in you who believe.
- **2nd Point to Ponder: You receive CORRECTION from God's word when areas of sin in your life are made evident by the CONVICTION of the Holy Spirit.**
 - **Read: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)**
6 All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.
 - Always remember there is a kingdom reason for the King's rebuke and it's not just punitive.

- Read: John 16:7-8 (NASB)

7 But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment.

 - The Holy Spirit will always convict of sin, and righteousness, and judgment, it's part of His work in the divine narrative.
 - From this morning's John Eldredge Wild at Heart devotional: *"After you ask for forgiveness of sin, RENOUNCE it. If you intend to repeat it, your repentance is a fraud".*
- 3rd Point to Ponder: You receive ENCOURAGEMENT that lifts your soul by ENGAGING in a redemptive community that cultivates an environment of PEACE and JOY.
 - Read: Romans 1:11-12 (NASB)

11 For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

 - We must allow others access to our truest selves. In this space is where we can receive encouragement and accountability that we all need to grow spiritually.
 - There is no spiritual HEALTH without TRUTH.
 - Read: James 5:16 (NASB)

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. A prayer of a righteous person, when it is brought about, can accomplish much.
- 4th Point to Ponder: You receive IMPARTATION and INSPIRATION that will pour from your life into the lives of others.
 - Read: Acts 1:8 (NASB)

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.
 - Quote: "If God were to take the Holy Spirit out of this world, much of what we're doing in our churches would go right on and nobody would know the difference!" A W Tozer
 - Quote: "Satan has scored a point in making us so afraid of extremism about the Holy Spirit—which abounds indeed—that we may miss the true in our fear of the false. We can be so wary of getting out on a limb that we never go up the tree!" Vance Havner, Southern Baptist Minister
 - Havner was one who believed that "Most church members live so far below the standard, you would have to backslide to be in fellowship with them".

These (Acts 1:8) were the last words of Jesus as His earthly ministry concluded, and it signifies the passing of the baton from Jesus to the Holy Spirit. He gives us the power to be witnesses for Jesus Christ, so our lives will testify as to WHO Jesus is!

We need to understand the Holy Spirit's FUNCTION and CULTIVATE a listening ear to what He has to say. (You CAN hear God's voice!)

- **Read: Luke 12:8-12 (NASB)**

8 "Now I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before people, the Son of Man will also confess him before the angels of God; 9 but the one who denies Me before people will be denied before the angels of God. 10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him. 11 Now when they bring you before the synagogues and the officials and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

The Holy Spirit wants to impart things to you that He can use for His purposes. He wants to inspire you to live connected to Him, the very breath of God.

Questions

Pray