

4/23/2023

HOLY HABITS

*“We are not meant to remain as children
at the mercy of every chance wind of teaching...
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 (Ph)*

1. Spiritual growth is INCARNATIONAL. (Jesus living and working INSIDE ME.)

*“Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me. ‘Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in Me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.’”
John 15:4-6 (NLT)*

- Our part: IMITATION, INVITATION, COOPERATION

“Therefore, be imitators of God as dear children.” Ephesians 5:1 (NKJV)

- God’s part: TRANSFORMATION

*“And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.”
2 Corinthians 3:18b (NLT)*

*“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.”
Philippians 2:13 (NLT)*

2. Spiritual growth is INTENTIONAL.

“...Learn to be mature...Learn to have sense.” Proverbs 8:5 (GNT)

“...Take time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.” 1 Timothy 4:7b (Ph)

Four Habits of a CHRISTIAN

A. Prayer

"...Lord teach us to pray..." Luke 11:1b (NLT)

B. Tithing

"...The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives." Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

C. Fellowship

[Jesus] "...love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are My disciples." John 13:34-35 (LB)

D. Bible Study

[Jesus] "If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 (HCSB)

3. Spiritual growth is RELATIONAL.

"Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to Heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

4. Spiritual growth is BEHAVIORAL.

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James 1:22 (NIV)

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:12-13 (NIV)