

A Few Observations about "Spiritual Growth"

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1. Spiritual growth is a very unclear phrase in our culture today.

2. Spiritual growth in the church would probably be better termed "Follower of Jesus"

3. Spiritual growth, from a Biblical view, is defined as ... "A life-long process of becoming more like Jesus."

Phil 1: 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

4. We need to be growing spiritually! (A better follower of Jesus)

* I Peter 2:2 Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment,

5. There are several false indicators of spiritual maturity.

*1. Pride in How Much Bible You Know

I Cor 8:1 Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that "we all have knowledge" about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church.

*2. Truth without Grace

John 8:10 ¹⁰Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"

¹¹"No, Lord," she said.

And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

*3. Grace without Truth

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4. Harshness toward Outsiders While Cutting Insiders Slack

John 3:16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave^[a] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

*5. Telling people you're mature

6. There are several indicators of spiritual maturity.

1. An Appetite for Meat

Heb 5: 11^[a] [W]e have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

2. An Imperviousness to Personal Offence

Phil 1: 15^[a] Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. 16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defence of the gospel. 17 The former proclaim Christ out of rivalry, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. 18 What then?[So what?] Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice

3. A Conscience Informed by Scripture, not Opinions

Rom 14: 1^[a] As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 3 Let not the one who

eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.

4. A Sense of Humble Surprise when used by God in Ministry

1 Tim 1:15 This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all.

5. Tendency to give Credit for Spiritual Growth to God, not People

1 Cor 3: 4-7 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human? 5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.