

“Pursuing Spiritual Growth”

From the Series,
“Love, Tell, Help People”

Colossians 1:3-12
Preached Sunday AM 4/13/14
Meadow Baptist Church



TRANSFORMING TRUTH

Trends deceive. Traditions enslave. God's Truth transforms.

Illustration: Notches in the doorframe on Renee Court marking me and my sisters' physical growth

INITIAL COMMITMENT

- > UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS
 - > DEVELOP THE DISCIPLINES
 - > ENDURE THE CHALLENGES
 - > FORM THE HABITS
 - > EXPERIENCE THE REWARDS
- (it takes 21 days to build a healthy habit)**

1. Our Beautiful Beginning (3-6a)

- a. An example to seasoned saints (3) - “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you...”
- b. A priority to be treasured (4) - “Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints...”
- c. A foundation on which to build (5-6a) - “...because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you...”

2. Our Spiritual Blossoming (6b-7)

We are spirits having bodies, not bodies having spirits

- a. The naturally supernatural (6b) - “...as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing...”

- b. The personal experience (6c) - "...as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth."

Hearing the Gospel > Understanding the Truth > Experiencing spiritual growth and fruitfulness

- c. The willing investor (7) - "...just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf 8 and has made known to us your love in the Spirit."

3. Our Continual Becoming (9-12)

- a. The desire of the spiritually mature (9a) - "And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you..."
- b. Growth in understanding objective truth (9b) - "... asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding."
- c. Progress in living out our faith (10a) - "...so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing **to Him**..."
- d. Producing outward fruit from our inward faith (10b) - "...bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."
- e. Increasing in transforming spiritual power (11-12) - "May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light."