

Solid Foundation

Pillars of Christianity

Lesson Three

“Spiritual Growth”

INTRODUCTION:

As we have learned, being born again is our entrance into the kingdom of God. But, it is very important for us to understand that this “transformation” is not the end of our relationship with God, it is the beginning. You see, once we enter into the kingdom of God, through Jesus Christ, it is then that we begin to “grow up” into Him.

The Apostle Paul tells us that we should “. . . *no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching . . . but instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the head, that is, Christ*” (Ephesians 4:14-15).

- * God expects His children to _____.
- * **Grow:** _____; _____;

- * Spiritual growth is not an _____; it is a _____.
- * It is God’s will that we _____, _____ and _____ in our relationship with Him.

In order to keep from getting discouraged, we must remember that growth is a process. It is “progression development.” We will not arrive at perfection overnight.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

THREE REQUIREMENTS FOR GROWTH

- #1:** _____
“If you keep doing what you’ve always done, you will keep getting what you’ve always got.”

Psalm 25:4-5

Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.

#2: _____

There is no limit to what God can do through the person who is fully committed to Him.

Philippians 3:13-14

. . . but this one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

#3: _____

The only person that can stop you from becoming what God intends for your life is you!

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

THREE PRINCIPLES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Principle #1: _____

* A Christian's _____ consists of the _____.

I Peter 2:2

Like newborn babies, crave spiritual milk so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.

Proverbs 4:20-22

My son, pay close attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.

Joshua 1:8

Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.

Matthew 4:4

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

I Peter 1:23

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God.

Principle #2: _____

* _____ is communication with God.

* Any _____ without _____ is soon to end.

Luke 18:1

Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

I Thessalonians 5:17

Pray continually.

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

I John 5:14-15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him.

Jeremiah 33:3

Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all you heart.”

Mark 11:24

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours.

Principle #3: _____

* Christians _____ better _____.

* Each of us tends to _____ like those with whom we _____.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—all the more as you see the day approaching.

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

There are necessary ingredients that are required by the human body in order to grow and mature properly. When these ingredients are compiled into a balanced daily diet and consumed by the physical body, growth becomes a natural process. This is true of our spiritual life as well.

SEVEN ABSOLUTES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. _____ (Matthew 14:13; 14:23)
2. _____ (I Peter 2:2; Romans 10:17)
3. _____ (Psalm 22:3; 34:1-4)
4. _____ (I Timothy 2:1-3; Philippians 4:6)
5. _____ (Psalm 46:10; Isaiah 40:31)
6. _____ (Philippians 4:9; James 2:17)
7. _____ (Hebrews 10:25; Psalm 122:1)

List below your personal plan for spiritual growth:

CONCLUSION:

Spiritual growth does not take place in a hurry. It is not “micro-wave” style. It is more “crock-pot” style. The key, however, is to start the process today! Don’t put it off any longer. Ask the Lord to “put within you some holy motivation”, and begin right now to “grow up into Him.”