

Discipleship 101: Basics of the Christian Life

Lesson 5: Growing In Christ

Colossians 1:28 “²⁸*We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.*”

THE IMPORTANCE OF GROWTH

I Peter 2:2 “²*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,*”

Being Born Again is not enough. You must Grow or you'll Die.

KEY COMPONENTS OF GROWTH

1. The Holy Spirit – Your Source of life.

I Corinthians 6:19 “¹⁹*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?*”

II Corinthians 1:22 “[God] set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

Galatians 5:22-25 “²²*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* ²³*gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.* ²⁴*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.* ²⁵*Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*”

All Christians have the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit doesn't have all Christians.

Ephesians 4:30-32 “³⁰*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* ³¹*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.* ³²*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*”

Ephesians 5:17,18 “¹⁷*Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.* ¹⁸*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit*”

The Christian life is a daily surrender to the Spirit's Control.

2. Prayer – Your spiritual Breath.

Prayer is simply Talking With God.

God knows what you Mean even if you have trouble Saying It.

Romans 8:26-27 “²⁶*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.* ²⁷*And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.*”

I Peter 3:12 “¹²*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer,*”

I Thessalonians 5:17,18 “¹⁷*pray continually;* ¹⁸*give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*”

3. The Bible – Your Spiritual Food.

Matthew 4:4 “*Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*”

God Speaks to us through the Bible.

II Timothy 3:16 “¹⁶*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*”

Psalms 119:105 “¹⁰⁵*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*”

The Bible provides Everything you need for Every stage of spiritual growth.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A QUIET TIME

There are two key concepts that you need to understand when it comes to your relationship with Christ.

1. Knowing Jesus.

John 17:3 “³*Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*”

2. Fellowshipping with Jesus.

I Corinthians 1:9 “⁹*God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.*”

To know someone you must...

- Meet them.
- Spend time with them.

Matthew 7:21-23 “²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ ²³Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

Helpful Hints for a quiet time.

1. A set **Time** and a set **Place**.
2. **Read** your Bible.
3. Don’t just read the word spend some time **Meditating** on it.

Philippians 3:10 (Amplified Bible) “*For my determined purpose is that I may know Him, that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him - perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His person more strongly and more clearly.*”

Colossians 2:6 “⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

The Importance of the Church in the life of the Christian.

“While your relationship to Christ is **Personal**, God never intends it to be **Private**.”

1. A Church family identifies you as a true Christian.

John 13:34, 35 “³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

I can’t claim to follow Christ if I’m not committed to **Loving** any specific group of Christians.

Together, not **Separate**, we are his body.

2. A Church family moves you out of self-centered isolation.

I Corinthians 12:26 “²⁶If one part [of the body] suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”

God expects us to give our **Lives** for each other.

I John 3:16 *“Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.”*

Philippians 2:4 *“⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

3. A Church family helps you grow spiritually.

Isolation breeds deceitfulness; it is easy to fool ourselves into thinking we are mature if there is no one to Challenge us.

Ephesians 4:16 *“¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”*

4. A Church family will help keep you from backsliding.

None of us are immune to Temptation. Given the right situation, we are capable of any Sin.

Hebrews 3:13 *“¹³But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”*

The Importance of the Christian in the life of the Church.

1. The body of Christ needs you.

I Corinthians 12:7 *“⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”*

You have a special role in God’s family and God wants you to Do Your Part.

I Peter 4:10 *“¹⁰Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*

2. You play a part in Christ’s mission in the world.

Matthew 28:19, 20 *“¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Even though it is our personal mission to win the world, you can’t Do It Alone.

The Church needs you and you need the Church.

Putting it all together.

The Christian life is...

Not just a commitment to Christ, it's a commitment to the Church.

Not just a Personal relationship, it's a Corporate relationship.

Not just a Vertical relationship with God. It's about a Horizontal relationship with others.