

Spiritual



Spiritual Growth

Spiritual Growth is the process of becoming more and more like Jesus Christ. When we place our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins the process of making us more like Him, conforming us to His image. Spiritual Growth is best described in 2 Peter 1:3-8 which tells us that by God's power we have "everything we need" to live lives of godliness, which is the goal of Spiritual Growth. What we need comes "through our knowledge of Him," which is the key to obtaining everything we need. Our knowledge of Him comes from the Word, given to us for our edification and growth.

Works of the Flesh (will not get you into the kingdom)

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|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Sexual immorality | 7. Enmity | 13. Rivalries |
| 2. Impurity | 8. Strife | 14. Dissensions |
| 3. Sensuality | 9. Jealousy | 15. Divisions |
| 4. Idolatry | 10. Fits of Anger | 16. Envy |
| 5. Sorcery | 11. Drunkenness | 17. Other things |
| 6. Enmity | 12. Orgies | |

Fruit of the Spirit (against such things there is no law)

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|----------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Love | 4. Patience | 7. Faithfulness |
| 2. Joy | 5. Goodness | 8. Gentleness |
| 3. Peace | 6. Kindness | 9. Self-Control |

There are two lists in **Galatians 5:19-23**. Verses 19-21 list the "acts of the flesh". These are the things that identified our lives before we came to Christ for salvation. The acts of the flesh are the activities we are to confess, repent of, and, with God's help, overcome. As we experience spiritual growth, fewer and fewer of the "acts of the flesh" will be evident in our lives. The

second list is the “fruit of the Spirit” (verses 22-23). These are what should characterize our lives now that we have experienced salvation in Jesus Christ. Spiritual Growth is identified by the fruit of the Spirit becoming increasingly evident in a believer’s life.

When the transformation of salvation takes place, spiritual growth begins. The Holy Spirit indwells us (John 14: 16-17). We are new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). The old, sinful nature begins in give way to the new, Christlike nature (Romans 6:7). Spiritual Growth is a lifelong process that depends on our study and application of God’s Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and our walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26). As we seek Spiritual Growth, we should pray to God and ask for wisdom concerning the areas He desires us to grow in. we can ask God to increase our faith and knowledge of Him. God desires for us to grow spiritually, and He has given us all we need to experience Spiritual Growth. With the Holy Spirit’s help, we can overcome sin and steadily become more like our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3 “Exhortations to Seek the Things Above” Exhortation- an address or communication emphatically urging someone to do something.

Exhortations to Seek the Things Above

“Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”

1. Keep thinking about the things above.
2. You have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
3. Christ is your life.
4. Put to death whatever in your nature belongs to the earth. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience.
 - A. Sexual Immorality
 - B. Impurity
 - C. Shameful passion
 - D. Evil desire
 - E. Greed

Pull Off All Things

1. Anger
2. Rage
3. Malice
4. Slander
5. Abusive language from your mouth
6. Do not lie to one another.

The **New Man** is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it.

Exhortation to Unity and Love

The Elect of God

Holiness

Heart of mercy

Kindness

Humility

Gentleness

Patience

Forgiveness

Virtues (conduct that agrees with what is morally right) add love which is the perfect bond. Let the peace of Christ be in control in your heart. Be thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and exhorting one another with all wisdom. Whatever you do in Word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

God's Virtues

1. Prudence (wisdom)
2. Temperance (moderation of desires)
3. Fortitude (courage)
4. Justice (righteousness)

Theological Virtues that are given to us by Christ from God. I Corinthians 13:13

1. Faith
2. Hope
3. Love

Love is the root of all virtues. When we know God's love inside of us, we can then pass on God's love to others. I John 4:7-11 tells us about God's Love.

Live a Virtuous Life

1 Peter 1:15-16 We follow Jesus we grow in holiness, righteousness and justice. As followers of Jesus, living lives that are good for us and also pleasing to God becomes part of our daily routine.

2 Peter 1:3-11 The power to grow in Christ does not come from us, but from God. This is explained through salvation. As we choose to believe in Jesus, we are filled with the "Holy Spirit who empowers us with God's goodness and ability to escape the corruption of the world due to its evil desires."

Make every effort to add to your faith goodness (virtue is used in the King James Bible), and to goodness, knowledge, and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

They are steppingstones to finding God's love. God's love leads us to live rightly and to treat one another as God treats us through his love.

Romans 12:2, WE LEARN ABOUT OUR NEW LIFE IN Christ as believers: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will."

Colossians 3:12 takes this further as it reads, "as God's chosen people holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. . . ."

These Scriptures help us to remember that staying close to God helps us to discern whether things are right or wrong for us. They tell us that being a believer gives us a new life, making us better people, helping us to realize that we are sons and daughters of God.

For help in following the ways of the Lord, let's look at Paul's letter to the Philippians, in **Philippians 4:8**, we read, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Whatever you have learned, or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

It is our **faith**, our hope, along with God's love within us that leads us into living the godly life, the life of virtue, as we follow the examples given to us in the Bible.

As Paul wrote in his letters to believers, we should focus our thoughts on those things that are good, true, admirable, lovely, pure and right. Having the right mindset helps us in our faith and in living a life of virtue.

Titus 2:11-12 "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age."

Exhortation to Households

Wives, submit to your husbands.

Husbands love your wives.

Children, obey your parents in everything.

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in every respect.



New Life

Scriptures

1. You enjoy freedom, not condemnation! Romans 8:1-2
2. You have been made right with God. 2 Corinthians 5:21
3. Resurrection power is yours! Ephesians 1:19-23
4. The Holy Spirit lives in you! 1 Corinthians 6:19
5. God has good plans for your life! Jeremiah 29:11
6. God honors you! 1 Samuel 2:30
7. God lifts you out of every kind of lack! Psalm 113:6-8
8. You are united with Jesus! Ephesians 2:6

What does it mean to have New Life in Christ?

1. How does being a Christian change our lives? 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - A. We have been “born again”.
 - B. We no longer need to fear death.
 - C. This changes our entire perspective on life.
2. Why is it so important to have our lives changed by Jesus? John 3: 3-7
Salvation is more than being forgiven for our sins and promised Heaven after we die.
We can only help others come into God’s Kingdom if we show the evidence of how wonderful it is in our own lives.
Life is no fun lived apart from Jesus.
3. How do we live this new life in Christ? Gal. 4:1-5 and 5:21-25, Ephesians 2:8-10
 - A. Not by simply following rules—we cannot live the way God wants us to on our own; we need His grace every moment and need to be continually reformed and renewed spiritually by Him.

- B. This changes our entire perspective on life: Instead of worrying about the concerns of the world which will not last, we can focus on matters of eternal significance—faith, hope, and love of God and neighbor.
- C. Sometimes we don't really "feel" the new life inside of us.
4. What are the practical ways in which I can develop my New Life as a Born-Again true disciple of Jesus? Colossians 3:1-4:6, James 2:15-20. Being newborn, or "born again," means that your inner spirit has been brought into a new relationship with God through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. When God first designed you, He intended you to be in close fellowship and friendship with Him.
- A. At home
 - B. At school
 - C. At church
 - D. In my community
 - E. All the time

Becoming a new creature in Christ does not mean that we become perfect or incapable of wrongdoing, but it does imply that we have a new nature and power given to us by God.

How can I live a new life in Christ?

1. Stop living in routine. Stop doing the same thing every single day.
2. Spend more time with others. Make an effort to spend more time with the people in your life that are important to you.
3. Spend more time with God.
4. He wants you to be happy.
5. Live life like God intended.

The Gospel Defined

- God created us to enjoy relationship with himself.
- Our sin has separated us from a holy God and caused spiritual death in us.
- Jesus Christ, the eternal son of God, became human, lived a perfect life, died, and was resurrected to pay sin's penalty of death.
- Trusting in Christ eternally unites us with him and other believers.
- Our new relationship with Christ gives us his presence and purpose in life.

Learning about your New Relationship with Christ- The Bible.

You can be confident in your new relationship with Christ because you have been completely forgiven and accepted by God. Only Christ's death on the cross is sufficient to provide this proper relationship with God. Ephesians 2:8-9

Grace: unmerited favor, an undeserved gift. You didn't deserve this relationship nor did you earn it by any good works. Rather it is a free gift from God that you accepted when you received Christ through faith.

Saved: rescued, spared from disaster. Rom. 6:23 When you received Christ, you put your trust in Christ and his death for your sin. You have been rescued from death and eternal separation from God.

Faith: belief, trust, commitment of mind, attitude, action. Simply put, faith is believing or trusting God and his Word. When you received Christ, you put your trust in Christ and his death for your sin. Instead of believing in your own ability to earn God's favor, you must now trust that you have been reconciled to God through what Christ has done for you.

Discovering Truths about your New Relationship with Christ.

1. Christ forgave your sin Col. 1:13-14
2. Christ made you a child of God John 1:12
3. Christ came into your life and will never leave you. Hebrews 13:5
4. Christ began a new life in you. 2 Corinthians 5:17
5. Christ gave you eternal life. I John 5:11-13

If you were to die tonight, how sure are you that you would spend eternity with God? Circle your answer: 0—25% 50% 75% 100%

Memorize a verse each week.

Week	Memory Verse
Week 1	Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."
Week 2	Scripture: Colossians 1:13-14 KJV "who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"
Week 3	Scripture: I John 3:1 KJV "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:

	therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."
Week 4	Scripture: Galatians 2:20 KJV "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."