

“Rooted and Built Up” Discipleship Program

Lesson Ten- What is Spiritual Growth?

Scripture- Romans 6:12-23

Memory verse- II Peter 3:18, *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”*

INTRODUCTION- The Apostle Paul personifies sin as an evil tyrant and warns the believers in Rome to *“let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body”* (Romans 6:12). Instead of submitting to sinful flesh, we ought to yield ourselves to the will of God, for a servant is known by the Master he obeys. The life of a believer should be one marked by *“Holiness to the Lord”* (Exodus 28:36). The closer our lives on earth depict our Father in Heaven, the more we grow in the Lord. The more separated from the world we become, the nearer we have grown to the Lord. The old saying,



“nearness is likeness” is true in the life of a disciple of Christ. Therefore, spiritual growth is seen as a believer takes “what they are” and makes it “what they do”. Christian growth is not evident in us by what we know, but by doing what we know. For example, a mail carrier may be dressed in the right uniform, drive a postal truck, and even quote from memory his creed that *“neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds”*, but if he does not deliver the mail, he is not a good mail carrier. Looking like a Christian at church and being able to speak as a Christian to other Christians are both good qualities. However, this does not demonstrate spiritual growth, for even *“Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light”* (II Corinthians 11:14). So, what is the evidence that a person is growing spiritually? In this lesson, we will examine the question-What is Spiritual Growth?

I. THE “ OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

***Cultivate-** *“to till; to improve by labor or study; to advance the growth of; to refine and improve by correction of faults, and enlargement of powers or good qualities.”*

A. Spiritual growth is cultivated through Bible _____.

(I Peter 1:23-25; I Peter 2:2-3; Hebrews 5:12-14; I Corinthians 3:1-2; Deuteronomy 8:3; Job 23:12; Psalm 119:97, 103; Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 4:4; Ezekiel 3:1-3)

- B. Spiritual growth is cultivated through Bible _____.**
(I Corinthians 1:18-21; I Peter 5:1-4; Jeremiah 3:15, 23:1-2; Ephesians 4:11-12; II Timothy 4:2-5; Hebrews 10:23-25)
- C. Spiritual growth is cultivated through Bible _____.**
(John 16:12-15; I Corinthians 2:9-12; John 5:39, 8:31-32; 17:17; II Timothy 2:15)
- D. Spiritual growth is cultivated through Bible _____.**
(Ecclesiastes 11:1; Psalm 126:6; Galatians 6:6-10)

II. THE “ _____ ” OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

***Continue-** *“to remain in a state indefinitely; to last, endure, persevere; to never cease from doing; to be constant.”*

- A. Spiritual growth is divided into _____.**
All spiritual growth will enter the same spiritual stages of growth regardless of physical age:
- 1. The “ _____ ” stage.**
(I Corinthians 3:1)
 - 2. The “ _____ ” stage.**
(I Corinthians 14:20; Galatians 4:1-3; Ephesians 4:14; Hebrews 13:7-9, 17; III John 4)
 - 3. The “ _____ ” stage.**
(Romans 10:2-3; I Timothy 3:6; II Corinthians 9:1-2)
 - 4. The “ _____ ” stage.**
(Ephesians 4:15-16; Titus 2:1-5; I Peter 5:1; Philippians 3:7-17)
- B. Spiritual growth is dependent upon _____.**
(Philippians 2:3-8)

III. CONCLUSION

Never will there come a day in our Christian life when at last we can say “we have finally arrived.” The focus on every believer, young or old, “wet behind the ears” or “having show on the mountain”, is to enjoy each phase to its fullest. The thrill of the Christian life is the journey, and not just the destination. Until we awake in the likeness of Christ, let us give ourselves to spiritual growth.

Student tip- A growing believer is one that is not only separated from the vice of the world, but also separated unto the voice of the Lord.