


“... Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
(2 Peter 3:18)

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- We should want to grow and become stronger
- We don't want to become weak


Yet,
 At times we feel weaker
 Not growing as we should
 We wonder if we are
 making progress

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All Christians Should Be Growing

- 1 Peter 2:2 – long for the word as babies – grow
- 2 Peter 3:18 – grow in grace and knowledge
- Ephesians 4:14 – do not be tossed here and there
- 1 Thessalonians 3:12 – increase and abound
- 1 Thessalonians 4:10 – excel still more
- Hebrews 5:11-14 – ought to be teachers


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Principles of Spiritual Growth

- **Simple**
- **Nothing New**
- **Involves Doing What We Already Know**
- **Takes Time**
- **Takes Work**
- **Takes Practice**
- **Takes Patience**

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I. Faithful in Study

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I. Faithful in Study

A. Word is the source of growth

Acts 20:32 – able to build you up
 Romans 10:17 – faith – hearing – word
 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 – edified by revelation
 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 – saved by the Gospel

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I. Faithful in Study

- A. Word is the source of growth
- B. Must have a craving and thirsting

Matthew 5:6 – hunger & thirst after righteousness
 1 Peter 2:1-2 – as babes desire milk
 Psalm 119:16, 72, 127, 162

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I. Faithful in Study

- A. Word is the source of growth
- B. Must have a craving and thirsting
- C. Regular and consistent study

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Regular and Consistent

Acts 13:27 – Jews read law every Sabbath
Matthew 19:4; 22:31 – Rebuked – should have read
Acts 17:11 – searched scriptures daily
1 Timothy 4:13 – give attention to reading
Psalm 1:1-3 – meditates day and night

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I. Faithful in Study

- A. Word is the source of growth
- B. Must have a craving and thirsting
- C. Regular and consistent study
- D. Study will accomplish much

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Faithful Study of the Word Will:

- Give greater knowledge (2 Peter 3:16-18)
- Give Wisdom (2 Timothy 3:15)
- Teach and Reprove us (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Correct & Train us (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Equip us for service (2 Timothy 3:17)
- Prepare us to defend (1 Peter 3:15)
- Discourage sin (Psalm 119:11)

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Diligent and Faithful Study

Not new
 Not quick
 Not amazing

A simple means of spiritual growth!

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Spiritual Growth

- I. Faithful in Study
- II. Fervent in Prayer

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II. Fervent in Prayer

A. Regular time of prayer

Psalm 55:16-17 – Evening, morning, and noon
 Daniel 6:10 – Three times a day
 Luke 18:1 – Always ought to pray
 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 – Pray without ceasing

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II. Fervent in Prayer

A. Regular time of prayer
B. Make and schedule time for prayer

Mark 1:35

Jesus got up early just to go pray

Luke 6:12

Jesus went to a mountain to pray and stayed all night

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II. Fervent in Prayer

A. Regular time of prayer
B. Make and schedule time for prayer
C. Pray about a lot of things

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Prayer

1 Timothy 2:1

Supplication/Entreaties
(Request - pleadings)

Prayers
(Request – general obtaining of good)

Intercession/Petitions
(Falling in with, or for others)

Thanksgivings
(Gratitude for blessings)

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II. Fervent in Prayer

A. Regular time of prayer
B. Make and schedule time for prayer
C. Pray about a lot of things
D. Prayer is powerful

James 5:16
Does Good

1 Peter 3:12
God Listens

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Spiritual Growth

I. Faithful in Study

II. Fervent in Prayer

III. Focus in Worship

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III. Focus in Worship

A. Worship takes work

- *Easy to let our minds wander*
 - *Concentration takes work / effort*
 - *The outward motions is not the hard part*
 - *Many things can distract us*
 - People around us
 - Those leading
 - Traffic in and out
 - Secular concerns

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III. Focus in Worship

A. Worship takes work

B. Worship is to be sincere – from the heart

John 4:24
Must Worship In Spirit And In Truth

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III. Focus in Worship

A. Worship takes work

B. Worship is to be sincere – from the heart

C. Focus on:

- The One we worship (God Almighty)
- What we are doing (songs, words, etc.)
- What is being said (prayers, sermon)
- Meaning of the Lord's Supper (body, blood, death, etc.)

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Spiritual Growth

I. Faithful in Study

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III. Focus in Worship

IV. Fruitful In Love

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IV. Fruitful In Love

Matthew 22:35-40

“One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.” This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

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IV. Fruitful In Love

God

- More than just acknowledging God (James 2:19)
- We must keep His commands (John 14:15; 1 John 2:3-6; 5:3)
- Practice what we know is right (Luke 17:6-10; James 1:22)

Brethren

- Can't grow without love (1 John 4:19-21)
- Fulfill our responsibility (Romans 13:8-10)

Weep and rejoice (Romans 12:15)
 Restore (Galatians 6:1)
 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24)

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IV. Fruitful In Love

We must be faithful in attendance!

Hebrews 10:24-25

"... and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

We cannot stimulate to love and good deeds by forsaking the assembly!

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Spiritual Growth

- I. Faithful in Study
- II. Fervent in Prayer
- III. Focus in Worship
- IV. Fruitful In Love
- V. First In Spiritual Matters

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V. First In Spiritual Matters

Priorities

Matthew 6:33
Seek First His kingdom and His Righteousness.

1 Peter 3:15
Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts

Above Pleasure
 Above Entertainment
 Above Family
 Above Jobs
 Above Education
 Above Self
Matthew 16:24-27

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Spiritual Growth

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(2 Peter 3:18)

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How To Obey The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Hear the word of God

(2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel message

(Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins

(Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ

(Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins

(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)

Remain Obedient

(Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)