



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sunday School is the Best School in Town!

Lesson: Spiritual Growth

Date: Sunday, February 12, 2023

When you get saved, you become a spiritual newborn. And, just as birth is only the beginning for a newborn baby, that child is not meant to be a baby forever; but to grow and become strong and eventually reach adulthood where they are able to be more of an asset in society.

The same is true for us. When we first come to Christ through receiving His salvation, we are spiritual newborns but we are not meant to remain that way. God's plan is for us to grow strong, become mature, and become a greater asset for the Kingdom of God.

Below are some steps we need to take so we can **grow spiritually**.

Step 1 – Desire Change

One of the first steps you need to do if you are going to grow spiritually is to have a desire and commitment to want to change. This is the biggest step. Therefore, recognizing the need to change and committing to it is the first step.

In the book of Genesis, Jacob, who was a con artist and a deceiver, had a desire for change. He wrestled with an angel throughout the night and would not let the angel go until the angel blessed him with the transformation that he desperately desired. Seeing his intense desire for change, the angel blessed Jacob and changed his status in life (Genesis 32:22-31).

Just like Jacob, your desire to change will provide the passion you need to see real results in your life.

STEP 2 – Commit to the Church

Your commitment to your church is critical to your spiritual growth and sustaining your relationship with Christ.

The **Church** is God's designated place where we come to learn, grow, and get directions for our life. It is where we get plugged into an environment and life system that produces Kingdom results (good success) in every aspect of our life and ministry.

The reason we attend church and gather with other believers regularly is for teaching, fellowship, worship, communion, prayer, and to build one another up in the faith (Hebrews 10:25, Acts 2:42-47).

Step 3 – Read Your Bible Daily

You can experience drastic improvement in your spiritual life by reading the Bible. The Bible is the written Word of God and is the ultimate set of guiding principles governing all areas of life for the people of God. Through these writings, God communicates His will, His laws, His nature, His transformative power and His saving grace to humanity.

It's essential to find a Bible reading plan that's right for you. A plan will keep you from missing anything God has written in His Word. Also, if you follow the plan, you'll be on your way to reading through the Bible once every year. Let's make Bible reading a priority.

STEP 4 – Get Involved in Ministry

Get "plugged in!" People that get involved in the church naturally grow in their walk with Christ.

Participation in church ministry and outreach service provides the opportunity to serve in the community, fellowship with your church family, and support through labor and giving to your Local Church. You will begin to develop a greater passion for God and what He is doing through you as you use your gifts, talents and abilities for the Kingdom of God.

There are so many opportunities that you can take advantage of concerning being active in ministry and service. Studies show that the more you are involved with something – the more you will get out of it.

STEP 5 – Pray Daily

Prayer is simply talking to God who can provide supernatural help. You don't have to use big fancy words. There are no right and wrong words. Just be yourself. Give thanks to the Lord daily for your salvation. Pray for others in need. Pray for direction. Pray for the Lord to fill you daily with His Holy Spirit. There is no limit to prayer. You can pray with your eyes closed or open, while sitting or standing, kneeling or lying on your bed, anywhere, anytime. So, begin today to make prayer a part of your daily routine.

Here is a helpful acronym that you can use. It is **P-R-A-Y**.

1. P – PRAISE

Start your time of prayer with praise – We praise God for who He is and for what He has done!

2. R – REPENT

Repent of sins you have committed and of God's commands you have neglected!

3. A – ASK

- Ask for your needs and for the need of others.
- Also, "Pray your day". Talk to God about what you have going on that day. Pray to seek His guidance and also to release any anxiety, fear, anger or other feelings that can keep you from being the best that you can be.

Talk to Him about that difficult co-worker, that doctor's appointment, that parent/teacher conference. When you have talked with God about your day, you will see Him working in every situation. You may find that your day goes more smoothly – or even on the tough days, you will find that you feel better equipped to handle whatever comes up.

4. Y – YIELD

Yield your will to God's Will. Yield your agenda to God's agenda for you.

After prayer, believe and trust God...and walk in your victory!

Step 6 – Obey and Trust God

A successful journey to spiritual growth and maturity in Christ requires a process marked by obeying and trusting God. Character is developed by keeping God's Word through challenging experiences. Your faith is going to be put on trial. Maturity is when you can continue to live right and do the right thing in the midst of your storm.

Spiritual growth is established when you are obedient to God and His direction despite your desires and feelings. In fact, trusting God and being obedient is one of the most powerful things that you can do.

1 Samuel 15:22,

“Listen, obedience is better than sacrifice...”

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

MORE AVENUES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

“By the Wayside” Talk

Some things are taught – other things are caught. Powerful things happen when you are at the right place at the right time. We encourage you to stay around the church, your Pastors and fellowship – because there are valuable teachings that come “by the wayside”.

Wayside talk is not formal teaching – but “God arranged” and “Holy Spirit driven” opportunities to hear and grow!

Proverbs 8:2

“...standeth in the top of high places and by the wayside where the paths meet.”

Listen to how God instructs us to teach His principles to our children in
Deuteronomy 6:7:

“And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

God has a plan for your life (Jeremiah 29:11) and that plan includes mentoring moments and “on the job training”. You have a purpose and an assignment at your church and in the Kingdom of God. Wayside talk is essential for your Christian development.

Welcome and Receive Correction

If you are expecting to grow then you must welcome and receive correction. Correction is one of the most effective tools in the Kingdom of God! As infractions, mistakes and mess-ups occur – correction is a “ready teacher” to help you improve immediately.

In grade school, when you got your test back – the answers that were wrong were marked. For those that wanted to learn and grow, the incorrect answers were an opportunity through correction to progress and get smarter. It didn’t feel good – but it was good. Compliments are nice – but correction is dynamic!

The Bible says in **2 Timothy 3:16** that even the Word of God was given for this reason:

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Get in the frame of mind to welcome correction when it comes. God sends correction to direct you and perfect you. Take correction and corrective action without blaming or complaining. Just know you are a son or daughter of God.

Hebrews 12:6-7

“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”

Give Your Burdens to the Lord

You may ask, “How can this affect my spiritual growth?”

One thing for sure, holding on to burdens and cares will undoubtedly wear you down, discourage you and affect you negatively. These burdens can affect your health, your mood, your personal relationships and your witness for Christ and ultimately stunt your spiritual growth.

Psalm 55:22

“Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.”

So, the more we can release our burdens to God, demonstrates that we are maturing and growing in Christ; trusting in Him and not ourselves.

Develop a Sense of Gratitude

Take a look at your life right now; no matter how many mistakes you feel you've made or how many victories you've won – no matter what; say “I'm Grateful”. Why?

Romans 8:28 says,

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Understand that everything that you have been through; every challenge, every trial and tribulation, every setback, every situation, every storm, and every victory; the good and the bad, all worked together to get you in position to be all God has created you to be and to do all God has called you to do.

When you purpose in your heart to thank God for everything that He allows to come into your life, you will find yourself growing in Christ and in the knowledge of who God is.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says,

“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Give

Psalm 116:12

“What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?”

Giving is an attribute and expression of spiritual growth. In natural life we see the progression of a human life. A newborn or infant has a life where they totally RECEIVE (they are dressed, fed, nurtured, etc.). Later on that toddler learns to dress and “share” with others. That same individual, later on in life, is married and a parent – and now GIVES to take care of their family with time, nurture and resources. **To GIVE means to mature.**

Giving in the spiritual realm also indicates growth. When a child of God sees and understands the importance of the Kingdom to the degree that they support – maturity has taken place. Strong Christians give cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7) in their tithing, offering and vision support because they are grateful to God. They realize that they have been blessed and want to see their church successful along with the Kingdom of God!

God wants us to give because He knows that we will be blessed in the process. But also, when we give, He gives us an opportunity to participate, by faith, in His divine plans. Every time we support financially through tithing and offering we are growing stronger in God!

CONCLUSION

God desires for us to grow spiritually, and He has given us all we need to experience spiritual growth. We believe that when you implement these practices and patterns in your life, you will grow right and become all that God has created you to be.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Lesson: Spiritual Growth

Date: Sunday, February 12, 2023

1. What is the first step you need to do to grow spiritually?

2. Your _____ to change will provide the passion you need to see real _____ in your life.

3. List three reasons we attend church and gather with other believers regularly.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. The Bible is the written _____ and is the ultimate set of _____ governing all areas of life for the people of God.

5. People that get plugged in and involved in the church naturally grow in their walk with Christ. **True or False**

6. Provide the word below that is associated with each letter of the acronym, P-R-A-Y?

P - _____

R - _____

A - _____

Y - _____

7. **Step 6 – Obey and Trust God:** When you obey and trust God

_____ is developed by keeping God's Word through challenging experiences.

8. List two of the “**Avenues of Spiritual Growth**” provided in the lesson:

1. _____

2. _____

9. Take correction and corrective action without _____ or _____ . Just know you are a son or daughter of God.

10. Giving is an attribute and expression of _____ .