

AM I GROWING?



MAIN IDEA: What is spiritual growth and why is it important?

True or false: "I will automatically grow spiritually if I read the Bible, pray, and go to church."

Mike Taylor

<<https://www.taylornotes.info/bible-studies>>



A. WHAT IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

1. What is spiritual growth? (2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29)
2. Why is spiritual growth important? (Hebrews 6:1; 2 Peter 3:18)
3. Does my spiritual growth depend solely on God, or do I participate in it? (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 1:5-8)

B. WHAT IS MY ROLE IN GROWING SPIRITUALLY?

1. My role is to recognize that it is Christ's power in me that gives me the ability to grow spiritually. (Ephesians 3:20; 2 Peter 1:3)
2. My role is to recognize that it doesn't happen automatically. (2 Peter 1:8)
3. My role is to accept the Bible's authority. (2 Timothy 3:16)
4. My role is to assimilate biblical truth. (John 17:17)
5. My role is to change the way I think. (Proverbs 4:23; Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 14:20)

C. WHAT STEPS CAN I TAKE TO GROW SPIRITUALLY?

1. I will grow when I make Jesus Christ first in my life. (Matthew 22:37)
2. I will grow when I obey Jesus' teachings. (John 8:31)

3. I will grow when I remain in close fellowship with Jesus and learn to depend on him. (Psalm 116:1-2; John 15:5)
4. I will grow when I love other Christians in an active way. (John 13:34-35)
5. I will grow when I share Jesus with others. (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20)
6. I will grow when I examine my life for hindrances. (Hebrews 12:1b)
7. I will grow when I examine my life for unresolved sin. (Hebrews 12:1c; 1 John 1:9)
8. I will grow when I persevere during tough times. (Hebrews 12:1d)
9. I will grow when I do good things for others. (Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 2:10)
10. I will grow when I depend on Jesus who perfects my faith. (Hebrews 12:2a)

D. TWELVE WAYS TO KNOW YOU ARE GROWING

1. I can see how the Holy Spirit is producing "fruit" in my life. (Galatians 5:22-23)
2. I am becoming increasingly aware of my sinfulness & weakness. (1 John 1:8)
3. My response to sin is quick and followed by genuine repentance. (Galatians 5:24-25; 1 John 1:9)
4. I see trials and temptations as opportunities for growth. (James 1:2-4)
5. I view service for the Lord as a high honor and not a burden. (Luke 4:8)
6. My life has a clear direction and purpose. (Philippians 3:13-14)
7. I desire to be closer to God every day. (Psalm 42:1-2)
8. I guard my thoughts life and speech to make them pleasing to God. (Psalm 19:14; 2 Corinthians 10:5)
9. I am experiencing an increasing awareness of the Lord's presence. (Psalm 139:7)
10. I am eager to share with other Christians what Jesus is doing in my life. (1 Thessalonians 2:8b)
11. I jealously guard my private time of prayer and Bible reading. (Psalm 119:15-16)
12. I desire to grow closer to God every day. (Psalm 116:1-2; 139:17-18)

E. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME MATURE?

1. Becoming like Christ is a gradual process. (2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:13)
2. Remember, all believers will ultimately reach full maturity. (Ephesians 4:11-13)