

# Spiritual Growth

- Want to grow / be stronger
- Don't want to become weak

Yet,  
Times feel – weaker  
Not grown as should  
Wonder if making progress

## All Christians Should Be Growing

- 1 Pet. 2:2 – desire milk as babes – grow
- 2 Pet. 3:18 – grow in grace & knowledge
- Eph. 4:14 – do not be tossed to and fro
- 1 Thess. 3:12 – increase and abound
- 1 Thess. 4:10 – increase more and more
- Heb. 5:11-14 – time ought to be teachers

# Spiritual Growth

### Principles of Spiritual Growth

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

# Spiritual Growth

### I. Faithful in Study

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**A. Word is the source of growth**

Acts 20:32 – able to build you up  
Rom. 10:17 – faith – hearing – word  
1 Cor. 14:1-5 – edified by revelation.  
cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-3

### I. Faithful in Study

**A. Word is the source of growth**

**B. Must have a craving & thirsting**

Mt. 5:6 – hunger & thirst after righteousness  
1 Pet. 2:1-2 – as babes desire milk  
Psa. 119:16, 72, 127, 162

*I. Faithful in Study*

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

**Regular & Consistent**

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

*I. Faithful in Study*

- A. Word is the source of growth
- B. Must have a craving & thirsting
- C. Regular & consistent study
- D. Will accomplish:

**Faithful Study of the Word Will:**

- Give greater knowledge (1 Pet. 3:16-18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- Give Wisdom (2 Tim. 3:15)
- Discourage sin (Psa. 119:11)
- Equip us for service (2 Tim. 3:17)

**Diligent & Faithful Study**

*Not new  
Not quick  
Not amazing*

A simple means of spiritual growth!

**Spiritual Growth**

*I. Faithful in Study*

*II. Fervent in Prayer*

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**A. Regular time of prayer**

Psa. 55:16-17 – Evening, morning & noon  
 Dan. 6:10 – Three times a day  
 Luke 18:1- Always ought to pray  
 1 Thess. 5:17 – Pray without ceasing

*II. Fervent in Prayer*

**A. Regular time of prayer**  
**B. Make & schedule time for prayer**

**Mark 1:35**  
 Got up early just to go pray

**Luke 6:12**  
 Went to mountain to pray – stayed all night

*II. Fervent in Prayer*

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

*Prayer*  
 1 Timothy 2:1

**Supplication**  
 (Request -entreaty )

**Prayers**  
 (Request – general obtaining of good)

**Intercession**  
 (Falling in with - For others)

**Thanks**  
 (Gratitude for blessings)

*II. Fervent in Prayer*

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

**James 5:16**  
*Does Good*

**1 Pet. 3:12**  
*God Listens*

**Regular & Fervent Prayer**

*Not new*  
*Not quick*  
*Not amazing*

A simple means of spiritual growth!

# Spiritual Growth

*I. Faithful in Study*

*II. Fervent in Prayer*

*III. Focus in Worship*

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## A. Worship take work

- *Easy to let minds wander*
- *Concentration takes work / effort*
  - *The outward motions – is not the hard part*
  - *Many things call for attention*
    - *People around us*
    - *Those leading*
    - *Traffic in / out*

*III. Focus in Worship*

## A. Worship take work

## B. Worship is to be sincere / from heart

**John 4:24**  
**Must Worship In Spirit & In Truth**

*III. Focus in Worship*

## A. Worship take work

## B. Worship is to be sincere / from heart

## C. Focus on:

- *What we are doing (song, words, etc)*
- *What is being said (prayer, sermon)*
- *The One we worship (God almighty)*
- *Meaning of the Lord supper (body, blood, death, etc.)*

**Sincere & Focused Worship**

*Not new*  
*Not quick*  
*Not amazing*

A simple means of spiritual growth!

# Spiritual Growth

*I. Faithful in Study*

*II. Fervent in Prayer*

*III. Focus in Worship*

*IV. Fruitful In Love*

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Mt. 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? And he said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second like (unto it) is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments the whole law hangeth, and the prophets.”

*IV. Fruitful In Love*

*God*

- More than acknowledging God
- Keep commands (Jno. 14:15; 1 John 2:2ff; 5:3)
- Practice what know (Lk 17:6-10; James 1:22)

*Brethren*

- Can't grow without love (1 John 4:21)
- Fruit: fulfill responsibility (Rom. 13:8f)  
Weep & rejoice (Rom. 12:15)  
Restore (Gal. 6:1)  
Encourage (Heb. 10:24)

**Honest & Fruitful Love**

*Not new  
Not quick  
Not amazing*

A simple means of spiritual growth!

**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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*Priorities*

*Mt. 6:33  
Seek First  
Kingdom & Right.*

*1 Pet. 3:15  
Sanctify Lord God*

*Above Pleasure  
Above Family  
Above Jobs  
Above Education  
Above Self  
Mt. 16:24*

**First & Foremost Priority**

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Not quick  
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*V. First In Spiritual Matters*