

"... Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

(2 Peter 3:18)



- 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



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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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 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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Randy Childs

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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

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

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)

Diligent and Faithful Study

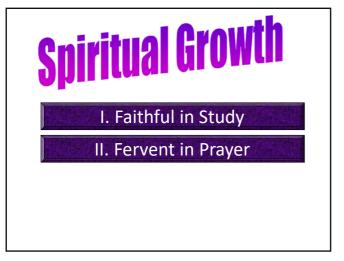
Not new Not quick Not amazing

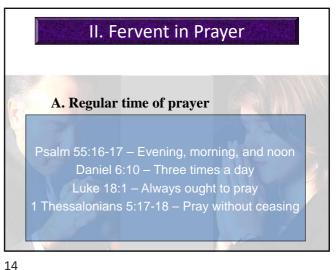
A simple means of spiritual growth!

Diocourage on (Found Front)

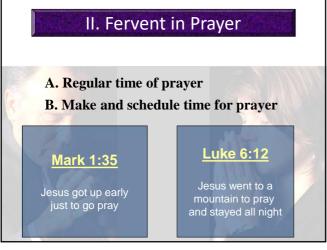
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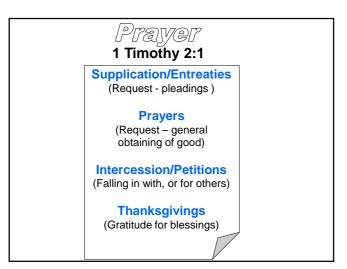


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A. Regular time of prayer
B. Make and schedule time for prayer
C. Pray about a lot of things

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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

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

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

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- III. Focus in Worship
- IV. Fruitful In Love

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 <u>LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD</u> 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 <u>LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR</u> AS YOURSELF." On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.""

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• 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) • 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)

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

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

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

Above Fleasure
Above Entertainment
Above Jobs
Above Education
Above Self
Matthew 16:24-27

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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)

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