



KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

HOW TO DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

#1: WHY SHOULD I GROW?

JIM HINTON

Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.

1 Peter 3:18 (NLT)

You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong... So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature...

Hebrews 5:12-6:1a (NLT)

I. WHAT IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

Spiritual growth is becoming more like Jesus Christ in our thoughts, actions and character

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29 (NLT)

This will continue until we are united by our faith and by our understanding of the Son of God. Then we will be mature, just as Christ is, and we will be completely like him.

Ephesians 4:13 (CEV)

II. WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT GROWING?

In 2 Peter 1:3-8 there are at least three reasons why I should want to grow:

1. Growth is expected by God

2. Growth is empowered by God

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.

Ephesians 3:20 (NCV)

3. Growth requires diligent effort

Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Philippians 2:12-13 (NLT)

...train yourself to be godly. "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.

1 Timothy 4:7-8 (NLT)

All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally.

1 Corinthians 9:25 (The Message)

The choices we make every day program our minds, either for godliness or ungodliness.
Randy Alcorn

Three truths: Spiritual Growth is...

- Constant—not sporadic
- Intentional—not accidental
- Imperative—not optional

III. HOW CAN I KNOW IF I AM GROWING?

1. Am I progressively more aware of my sinfulness?
2. Do I feel the need to quickly get right with God after I sin?
3. Am I joyful despite my spiritual battles?
4. Do I see serving as an honor rather than a burden?
5. Do I view all things as being under God's control?
6. Do I spend more time in worship and praise?
7. Do I have an increased desire to obey?
8. Am I more aware of God's presence?
9. Do I want to spend more time alone with God?
10. Do I feel an increasing desire to talk to other people about Jesus?