



KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

HOW TO DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

#2: CHOOSE TO MAKE JESUS YOUR LORD

JIM HINTON

I. WHERE DOES THE BIBLE SAY I MUST GROW?

1. In numerous scriptures like this one...

Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ....
1 Peter 3:18a (NLT)

2. The spiritual growth that God is looking for in me is to...

Become more like Jesus Christ in my 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)

3. God gives me the power to grow—but I also have a part in it

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)

4. The essence of becoming a Christian is choosing to make Jesus my Lord

“So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

Acts 2:36 (NLT)

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9 (NLT)

II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO MAKE JESUS LORD?

1. Recognize that Jesus is Lord whether I want Him to be or not

And He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

Colossians 1:15-18 (NASB)

2. Putting Jesus completely in charge of my life

I obey Him, follow Him and Trust Him in all things

So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?
Luke 6:46 (NLT)

III. WHO NEEDS A LORD?

There is a way that seems right to a person, but eventually it ends in death.
Proverbs 14:12 (GOD'S WORD)

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never die, and no one can steal them out of my hand.

John 10:27-28 (NCV)

Following Christ is a relationship that drives and defines all we are and do. In fact, that's what I love about followership. It's not a project. It's a Person. It's a relationship to a Person who perfectly loves and cares for us and who is wise beyond comparison – a Person who has done so much for His followers that they look for ways to please and obey Him...If Christianity is dull and boring, if it is a burden and not a blessing, then most likely we are involved in a project, not a Person - a system not a Savior, rules rather than a relationship.

Dr. Joe Stowell

IV. WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE TO MAKE JESUS LORD? - Matthew 9:9-13

1. Assurance of real acceptance

2. Hope of lasting change

3. Promise of true healing

4. Power to make a positive difference