



KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

HOW TO DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

#3: THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF GOD'S WORD (PART 1)

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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)

I. WHY THE WORD OF GOD IS SO IMPORTANT

1. God works in the world and my life through His Word

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
Genesis 1:3 (NIV)

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV)

2. God forms me into the image of Christ through the Word

By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

Hebrews 11:3 (NLT)

3. God has told me how important His word should be to me

But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:4 (NLT)

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

Romans 1:16 (NLT)

II. HOW THE WORD OF GOD EMPOWERS MY GROWTH

Reading, studying, and obeying the Word of God...

1. Nourishes my spiritual growth

Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment,

1 Peter 2:2 (NLT)

2. Protects me from sin

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:11 (NLT)

3. Gives direction for my life

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

4. Produces unshakable joy in me

Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts.

Psalm 119:1-2 (NLT)

5. Provides healing for my hurts

He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.

Psalm 107:20 (ESV)