



KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

HOW TO DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

#4: THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF GOD'S WORD (PART 2)

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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 IS THE WORD OF GOD SO IMPORTANT?

1. Scripture is our primary source of truth

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.
John 17:17 (NIV)

2. Scripture is our primary source of faith

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

3. Scripture is our primary source of growth (See Psalm 1:1-3)

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

II. HOW DOES THE WORD OF GOD EMPOWER MY GROWTH?

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

- 1. Nourishes my spiritual growth**
- 2. Protects me from sin**
- 3. Gives direction for my life**
- 4. Produces unshakable joy in me**
- 5. Provides healing for my hurts**

In regard to this Great Book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Saviour gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it, we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it.

Abraham Lincoln

6. Equips me for victory

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm...and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:10-13,17b (NLT)

7. Supplies me with promises

God has made a great many promises. They are all "Yes" because of what Christ has done. So through Christ we say "Amen." We want God to receive glory.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIRV)

8. Reconciles me to God

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NLT)

9. Enables self-reflection

For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

James 1:23-25 (NLT)

10. Frees me from guilt and shame

I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free.

Psalms 119:32 (NIV)

There is no God like you. You forgive those who are guilty of sin; you don't look at the sins of your people who are left alive. You will not stay angry forever, because you enjoy being kind. You will have mercy on us again; you will conquer our sins. You will throw away all our sins into the deepest part of the sea.

Micah 7:18-19 (NCV)

III. WHAT CAN I DO TO SPEND MORE TIME IN GOD'S WORD?

- 1. Ask God to give me the desire**
- 2. Commit to spending more time in Scripture**
- 3. Find a plan of action and put it in my schedule**
- 4. Remove my excuses and just do it**