

Spiritual Growth

I. How important is it to grow spiritually? Extremely important, for several reasons:

- A. God commands us to grow.
 - 1. 2 Peter 3:17-18.
- B. God makes perfection or full maturity the goal for every Christian.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 14:20.
 - 2. Ephesians 4:11-16.
 - 3. Colossians 1:28; 4:12.
- C. God rebukes those who DON'T grow spiritually.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 3:1-4.
 - 2. Hebrews 5:12-14.
- D. God commends those who DO grow.
 - 1. 2 Thessalonians 1:3.
- E. God tells us the destiny of those who grow (2 Peter 1:5-11), and the destiny of those who don't (Luke 13:6-9).

II. So what can we do to help us grow?

- A. Study the word of God diligently.
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:1-3.
- B. We need to let Christ live in us, which will happen if we study the word as we ought to. The more we study and apply the word, which reveals the character of Christ, the more we will become like Him.
 - 1. John 15:1-8.
 - 2. Galatians 2:20.
 - 3. 1 John 2:6.
- C. We need to pray for growth.
 - 1. Colossians 1:9-12.
- D. We need to spend time with other Christians, both...
 - 1. *In* the assembly. Hebrews 10:24-25.
 - 2. *And outside* the assembly. Hebrews 3:12-13.

III. What can keep us from growing as we should? First, a failure to do the above things, but consider a couple of other things.

- A. We may have never put self to death.
 - 1. John 12:24-26; Galatians 5:22-24.
- B. We may still be in love with the things of this world.
 - 1. Luke 8:4-8, 14.
 - 2. Love of the world can keep us from doing the things mentioned above.
 - 3. Passages that warn against getting too friendly with the world: James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17.

CONCLUSION:

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled (Matthew 5:6).