

**BELIEVING GOD FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE
IN A DARK WORLD**
Developing Spiritual Maturity

Ephesians 4:12 (LB) "...building up the church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity."

2 Corinthians 13:9 (LB) "Our greatest wish and prayer is that you will become mature Christians."

6 BELIEFS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

I. GROWTH BEGINS WITH _____.

UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF COMMITMENT

1. We become what _____.

2. Every church is _____ by what it is committed to.

1 Thessalonians 1:8 "... your faith in God has become known everywhere."

3. You must _____.

4. The greater the commitment, _____

_____.

Luke 14:33 "Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."

5. Commitment _____.

6. Build your life _____.

II. GROWTH IS A _____.

Proverbs 8:5 (GN) "Learn to be mature."

2 Peter 3:18 (GN) "Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ."

1. IT IS NOT _____.

Hebrews 5:12-13 (LB) "You have been Christians for a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others, but instead ... you need someone to teach you ... When a person is still living on milk, it shows he isn't very far along in the Christian life ... He's still a baby Christian!"

2. IT TAKES _____.

1 Timothy 4:7b (Ph)"Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit."

(NASB) "Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness."

This means you must:

• **Decide on** _____

• **Design a** _____

III. GROWTH INVOLVES _____

THE 3 MOST IMPORTANT SPIRITUAL HABITS

(Putting Christ first in my Time, Money, and Relationships)

A DAILY _____.

Mark 1:35 "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."

A WEEKLY _____.

1 Corinthians 16:2 "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collection will have to be made."

A COMMITTED _____.

Hebrews 10:25 "not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

IV. GROWTH IS MEASURED BY _____.

THE FIVE LEVELS OF LEARNING **The Building Blocks of Spiritual Growth**

1. _____

Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge."

1 Corinthians 8:1 "We know that 'We all possess knowledge.' But knowledge puffs up while love builds up."

2. _____

Hebrews 5:14 (NAS) "Solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."

1 Corinthians 2:14 "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God... because they are spiritually discerned."

3. _____

Hebrews 11:1 (NAS) "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Romans 14:22 (NAS) "The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God."

4. _____

Ecclesiastes 10:10 “If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.”

2 Timothy 2:15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman... who correctly handles the word of truth.”

5. _____

1 Timothy 1:5 (NAS) “The GOAL of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

Ephesians 4:13b (NCV) “We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection.”

Colossians 3:10 (LB) “You are living a brand new kind of life that is continually learning more and more of what is right and trying constantly to be more and more like Christ...”

V. GROWTH IS STIMULATED BY _____.

Hebrews 10:24 (NIV) “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”

VI. GROWTH REQUIRES PARTICIPATION IN _____

_____.

Doctrine

Primary Perspective

The Bible

The Bible is God's inerrant guidebook for life.

God

God is bigger and better and closer than I can imagine.

Jesus

Jesus is God showing Himself to us.

Holy Spirit

God lives in me and through me now.

Creation

Nothing "just happened." God created it all.

Salvation

Grace is the only way to have a relationship with God.

Sanctification

Faith is the only way to grow as a believer.

Good and Evil

God has allowed evil to provide a choice. God can bring good even out of evil events. God promises victory over evil to those who choose him.

The Afterlife

Heaven and Hell are real places. Death is a beginning, not the end.

The Church

The only true world "superpower" is the church.

Second Coming

Jesus is coming again to judge this world and to gather God's children.