

the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

***RELATIONSHIPS:**

Psalm 92:13 (NKJV) Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Psalm 92:14 (NKJV) They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

Psalm 92:15 (NKJV) To declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

***OBSTACLES:**

Obstacles are **problems** for immature believers, but **opportunities** for mature believers.

James 1:2 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

James 1:3 (NLT)

For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

James 1:4 (NLT) So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Hebrews 13:5b (NKJV) He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Hebrews 13:6 (NKJV) So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

***WORD:**

1 Peter 2:2 (NLT) Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation.

Psalm 119:11 (NKJV) Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You."

Matthew 4:4 (NKJV) But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.



Growing Spiritually – Part 2

Saturday-Sunday, May 10-11, 2024

The **ultimate goal** for your life is not simply making heaven. **God's plan** for your life is a **close intimate relationship** with Him. His goal is for you to **become more Christlike** (spiritual maturity) long before you get to heaven, **understanding His plan** for your life and **walking in His power** to fulfill it.

Romans 8:5 (NKJV) For those who **live according** to the flesh **set their minds** on the things of the flesh, but those who **live according** to the Spirit, (*set their minds on*) the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:6 (NKJV) For to be **carnally minded is death**, but to be **spiritually minded is life and peace**.

Romans 12:1 (NLT) And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to **give your bodies** to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a **living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable**. This is truly the way to worship him.

Romans 12:2 (NLT) Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by **changing the way you think**. Then **you will learn to know** God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

1) TO GROW SPIRITUALLY, I MUST BE INTENTIONAL.

The term "intentional" refers to something done with **purpose, deliberateness, or pre-meditation**. It suggests that **an action or decision is performed with a specific goal or aim in mind**, rather than happening by accident or chance. **Intentionality implies consciousness and awareness** behind the action or thought.

Hebrews 5:12-14 (NKJV)

2) TO GROW SPIRITUALLY, I MUST RESIST SIN. (Bad habits must be broken)

1 Corinthians 3:1 (NKJV) And I, brethren, **could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:2 (NKJV) I fed you **with milk and not with solid food**; for **until now you were not able** to receive it, and even now you are **still not able**;

1 Corinthians 3:3 (NKJV) for **you are still carnal**. For where there are **envy, strife, and divisions** among you, are you not **carnal** and behaving like mere men?

Four characteristics of spiritually immature Christians Paul covered.

ENVY:

Philippians 4:11-12 (NKJV) Not that I speak in regard to need, for **I have learned** in whatever state I am, to be **content**: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. **Everywhere and in all things I have learned** both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Luke 12:15 (NKJV) And He said to them, "**Take heed and beware** of covetousness, for **one's life does not consist in** the abundance of the things he possesses."

STRIFE:

1 Corinthians 3:3 (NKJV)

for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and **behaving like mere men**?

1 Corinthians 3:3 (The Living Bible, Paraphrased) For you are still only baby Christians, **controlled by your own desires**, not God's. When you are **jealous** of one another and **divide up into quarreling groups**, doesn't that **prove you are still babies**, wanting **your own way**? In fact, **you are acting like people who don't belong to the Lord at all**.

Hebrews 12:15 (NLT) Look after each other so that none of you **fails to receive** the grace of God. **Watch out** that no **poisonous root of bitterness grows** up to trouble you, **corrupting** many.

Romans 12:18 (NKJV) If it is possible, **as much as depends on you, live peaceably** with all men.

Matthew 5:9 (NKJV) **Blessed are the peacemakers**, for they shall be **called sons of God.**"

Philippians 4:6 (NLT) Don't worry about anything; instead, **pray about everything**. Tell God what you need, and **thank him** for all he has done.

Philippians 4:7 (NLT) Then you will experience God's peace, which **exceeds anything we can understand**. His peace will **guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus**.

DIVISIONS:

Acts 2:1 (NKJV) When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all **with one accord** in one place.

With One Accord: GREEK: Homothumadon is a compound of two words meaning to "rush along" and "in unison".

Acts 2:2 (NKJV) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a **rushing mighty wind**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 (NKJV) Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

Acts 2:4 (NKJV) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Ephesians 4:3 (AMP) **Be eager and strive earnestly** to guard and **keep the harmony and oneness** of [and **produced by**] the Spirit in the binding power of peace.

CARNAL:

1 Corinthians 3:4 (NKJV) For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," **are you not carnal**?

1 Corinthians 3:5 (NKJV) **Who then** is Paul, and who is Apollos, **but ministers** through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

1 Corinthians 3:6 (NKJV) I **planted**, Apollos **watered**, but **God gave the increase**.

1 Corinthians 3:7 (NKJV) So then **neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters**, but **God who gives the increase**.

John 2:15 (NKJV) When **He had made a whip of cords**, He **drove them all out** of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and **poured out the changers' money** and **overturned the tables**.

John 2:16 (NKJV) And **He said to those who sold doves**, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"

Matthew 21:13 (NKJV) And **He said to them**, "**It is written**, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

3) Learn to be open to receive the Truth of God's Word, **no matter how it's packaged**.

1 Corinthians 4:6 (NKJV) Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us **not to think beyond what is written**, that none of you may be **puffed up on behalf of one against the other**.

1 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV) For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

Ephesians 4:13 (NLT) This will continue **until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge** of God's Son that **we will be mature in the Lord**, measuring up to the **full and complete standard of Christ**.

Ephesians 4:14 (NLT) Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be **tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching**. We will not be **influenced when people try to trick us with lies** so clever they sound like the truth.

4) Mature believers have a **developed thought process and vocabulary**.

Phrases like:

What does the Word say?

The Word says...

It is written...

Let's look into the Word.

I'll go to the Lord.

I have to pray about it.

Let's pray now.

4 Things Needed To G R O W

*GROUNDED:

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NKJV) For **no other foundation** can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV) As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, **rooted and built up in Him** and **established in the faith**, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

John 15:4-5 (NKJV) **Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **I am the vine, you are**