

Sermon Series

How to Grow Spiritually

A COMMITMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH!

PHIL. 3:12
SEPT. 22, 2019

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How Do I Grow

A Commitment To Spiritual Growth

John 4:8
8 for God is love. 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. (KJV)

John 3:17
17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Our Teaching Lesson Today:

- I. Commitment To Growth Requires Proper Awareness
- II. Commitment To Growth Requires Maximum Effort
- III. Commitment To Growth Requires Focus

A Commitment To Spiritual Growth

Phil 3:12-17

12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.

13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,

14 I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven. NLT

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Phil 3:12-17 (Part II)

15 I hope all of you who are mature Christians will agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you.

16 But we must be sure to obey the truth we have learned already.

17 Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. NLT

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A Commitment To Spiritual Growth

Part I

I. <u>Commitment Requires Complete Awareness</u>	IV. <u>Commitment Requires The Right Motivation</u>
II. <u>Commitment Requires Maximum Effort</u>	V. <u>Commitment Requires The Right Attitude</u>
III. <u>Commitment Requires Focused Concentration</u>	VI. <u>Commitment Requires Proper Consistency</u>

13 I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. KJV

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Introduction

✓ **Boxing**
 1 Cor. 9:25-27
 25 All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. 26 So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I am not like a boxer who misses his punches. 27 I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. NLT

✓ **Wrestling**
 Paul described the Christian life to the Ephesians as a "struggle" [a wrestling match or fight] ...
 Eph. 6:12 We fight not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places"

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Introduction

These are metaphors reflecting his **COMMITMENT** to the Christian life as a race

- ✓ In Galatians 2:2 Paul expressed his "fear that [he] might be running, or had run, in vain."
- ✓ Galatians 5:7 "You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?"
- ✓ 2 Tim. 4:7 At the close of his life, Paul could declare, "I have finished the course, I have kept the faith"

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Our **COMMITMENT** to Spiritual Growth causes us to "cry" for the WORD of Christ

1 Peter 2:2-3
 2 You must crave pure spiritual milk so that you can grow into the fullness of your salvation. Cry out for this nourishment as a baby cries for milk. 3 now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. NLT

Our **Commitment** produces the following:

- 1) It glorifies God
- 2) It provides evidence that our salvation is genuine
- 3) It brings us the assurance of salvation
- 4) It produces the Spiritual Skill needed to LIVE for Christ
- 5) It provides us with hope in difficult times
- 6) It produces joy in our lives
- 7) It equips us for serving others in the body of Christ
- 8) It promotes our witness to those outside of Christ

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A Commitment To Spiritual Growth

I. Commitment Requires Complete Awareness

12. Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, (3:12a)

12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! NLT

➤ **Obtained (achieved)**

- ✓ Means to receive
- ✓ To acquire or to attain something

"Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect"

12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection!
