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How Do I Grow Spiritually?

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"HOW TO GROW SPIRITUALLY"

A

COMMITMENT

TO SPIRITUAL

GROWTH!

PHIL 3:12

SEPT. 22, 2019



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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

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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

A Commitment To Spiritual Growth

<p>I. <u>Commitment</u> Part I</p> <p><u>Requires Complete Awareness</u> ✓</p> <p>II. <u>Commitment</u></p> <p><u>Requires Maximum Effort</u> ✓</p> <p>III. <u>Commitment</u></p> <p><u>Requires Focused Concentration</u> ✓</p>	<p>IV. <u>Commitment</u> Part II</p> <p><u>Requires The Right Motivation</u></p> <p>V. <u>Commitment</u></p> <p><u>Requires The Right Attitude</u></p> <p>VI. <u>Commitment</u></p> <p><u>Requires Proper Consistency</u></p>
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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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A Commitment To Spiritual Growth

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 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

II. Our Commitment Requires a Maximum Effort

<p>"I press"</p> <p>I press on means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To keep working ✓ To run or follow after ✓ It speaks of an aggressive or energetic endeavor. 	<p>"Lay hold / Apprehend"</p> <p>The verb translated <i>I may lay hold of</i>:</p> <p>Means to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To overtake ✓ To seize or to catch
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III. Commitment Requires a Focused Concentration

13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.

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.

"Forgetting / Focusing"

The word means to:

- ✓ Lose the remembrance of something
- ✓ To cease doing something because it is obsolete
- ✓ To disregard something intentionally
- ✓ This could be old friends or habits

"Looking / Reaching Forward"

This phrase means:

- ✓ To strain to the stretch out for something
- ✓ Carries the idea of extending part of the body

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IV. Commitment Requires The Right Motivation

14. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

"I press" (Remember this same word was used in vs. 12)
The phrase means:

- ✓ To run" or "follow after."
- ✓ It speaks of an aggressive or energetic endeavor.

"on toward"

- ✓ The root meaning of the preposition kata (toward) is "down."
- ✓ Paul again expressed his single-minded focus
- ✓ It carries the idea of "continually bearing down on something"

14. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

"mark" / "goal"

- ✓ To pay careful attention to
- ✓ To look out for or to target something
- ✓ To fix one's eyes upon something

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V. Commitment Requires The Right Attitude

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. (NLT)

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. (KJV)

The word "Perfect" means mature

So, we must be committed to maturing - growing in Christ. We must be ("thus minded") KJV

"thus minded"
The Greek here means to:

- ✓ To have this attitude
- ✓ To be intent on this or to set one's mind on something
- ✓ It literally it means "to think this way"

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VI. Commitment Requires The Right Consistency

however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained. (3:16)

"However"
The Greek (*however*) could also be translated "one more thing."

- ✓ It is often used to express one final thought.
- ✓ The last REQUIREMENT to COMMITMENT can be described as consistency.

Vs. 16 however (one more thing), let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

He is sayingkeep living by that same standard to which they have attained.

"Keep Living"
The word here means:

- ✓ To line up
- ✓ To follow in line
- ✓ To use the metaphor of a race, they must keep running in their lane

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VI. Commitment Requires The Right Consistency
however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained. (3:16)

"However" : (one more thing)

"Keep Living" : (To line up)

"same rule / same standard"

16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing (KJV)

The Greek here is a Legal term that means:

- ✓ A written order or direction made by the court
- ✓ A court regulating practice
- ✓ A court ordered action controlling conduct

(KJV) "let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing"

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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
