
Sermon Series

How Do I Grow Spiritually?

SPRITUALGROWTH

CONNECT

GROW

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The Desire For Spiritual Growth

Eph. 4:17-19

¹⁷ With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. ¹⁸ Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. ¹⁹ They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

²⁰ But that isn't what you learned about Christ. ²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. NLT

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A Commitment To Spiritual Growth

Last Week

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

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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The Desire For Spiritual Growth

Our **DESIRE** for Spiritual Growth will provide the following benefits:

- ☐ A new will
- ☐ A new heart
- ☐ A new relationship
- ☐ New power
- ☐ New knowledge
- ☐ New wisdom
- ☐ New perception
- ☐ New understanding
- ☐ New righteousness
- ☐ New love
- ☐ New desire
- ☐ New citizenship


A **desire** is a **strong** wish to do or have something.



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The Desire For Spiritual Growth


Spiritual Growth

.....Is not simply that WE receive something new but that WE become someone new

Gal. 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ," Paul said; "and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me".


- ☐ The new nature is not added to the old nature but replaces it.
- ☐ The transformed person is a completely new "me" with driven by our desire for Christ!



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The Desire For Spiritual Growth

I. SPIRITUAL GROWTH REQUIRES A DESIRE FOR TRUTH

Eph 4:19-21

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;


21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: KJV

Vs. 20 "learned"

- ✓ To acquire information as a result of instruction
- ✓ Acquired knowledge of skill by instruction or study

Vs. 21 "heard"


- ✓ To believe something and to respond to it on the basis of having heard
- ✓ To accept
- ✓ To listen to something and respond to it



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The Desire For Spiritual Growth

I. SPIRITUAL GROWTH REQUIRES A DESIRE FOR TRUTH

As believers, we have "heard Christ and are taught in Him".

Both of these verbs are in the aorist tense

- ✓ pointing to a one-time past act
- ✓ The context is referring to the time when the readers came to believe the gospel

This is called the truth ... in Jesus.

"the truth is in Jesus"


- ✓ This refers to Christ being the truth
- ✓ The idea is that we are in union with Christ

Eph 4:19-21

19 They don't care anymore about right and wrong, and they have given themselves over to immoral ways. Their lives are filled with all kinds of impurity and greed.

20 But that isn't what you were taught when you learned about Christ.

21 Since you have heard all about him and have learned the truth that is in Jesus, NLT



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The Desire For Spiritual Growth

II. SPIRITUAL GROWTH REQUIRES A NEW SELF

22 **throw off** your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. (NLT)

22 That ye **put off** concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (KJV)

"throw off" / "put off"

- ✓ To lay something aside
- ✓ To cease from doing
- ✓ To stop doing what you have been accustomed to doing

Here Paul is describing what has occurred

- He uses three key phrases to summarize what we heard in the call to Christ

"throw off" (v22)

"Be renewed" (v. 23)

"put on" (v. 24)



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III. SPIRITUAL GROWTH REQUIRES A NEW MIND

23 And be **renewed** in the spirit of **your mind**;

24 And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. KJV

23 Instead, there must be a **spiritual renewal** of your thoughts and attitudes.


24 You must **display a new nature** because you are a **new person**, created in God's likeness — righteous, holy, and true. NLT

"renewed"

- ✓ To restore to freshness and vigor
- ✓ To bring to perfection (*that which was broken*)
- ✓ To cause something to become NEW

"mind" (KJV) / "thoughts and attitudes" (NLT)

- ✓ One's intellectual processes
- ✓ The total sum of a person
- ✓ To understand something not previously understood



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III. SPIRITUAL GROWTH REQUIRES A NEW MIND

24 And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. KJV

"Put on the new man".

The best rendering of this phrase would read

*"And being renewed in the spirit of your mind, **put on the new self.**"*

"New Self"

This Greek word means **NEW**

- ✓ It does not mean renovated but entirely new
- ✓ New in species and character.

The **new self** is new because it **has been created in the likeness of God**.

The Greek literally says....., **"according to what God is"**

A staggering statement expressing the wondrous reality of the CAPACITY we have in Christ our Lord!

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A Desire For Spiritual Growth

Our Teaching Lesson Today:
Spiritual Growth

- Spiritual Growth* Requires A Commitment To Truth
- Spiritual Growth* Requires A New Self
- Spiritual Growth* Requires A New Mind

Eph. 4:20-21
²⁰ But that isn't what you *learned* about Christ.
²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him



Welcome Back!!

SALT Ministry

Seasoned Adults Living Triumphantly

E



