

April 24-25, 2010

## The Growth Project

Your Spiritual Journey Toward Christ-Likeness

*. . . like newborn babies . . . grow in respect to salvation.*  
1 Peter 2:2 (New American Standard Bible)

*. . . we must grow up in every way to Christ, who is the head.*  
Ephesians 4:15 (Good News Translation)

Believers need to answer two questions that will help them opt into the spiritual growth process and cooperate with God.

- **Question #1: WHAT DOES SPIRITUAL GROWTH ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE?**

### Three Growth Areas

- Believers grow in Bible knowledge.

*. . . like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.* 2 Peter 2:2 (NASB)

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living,<sup>17</sup> so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed.* 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (GNT)

- Believers grow in Christian character.

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control . . .<sup>25</sup>Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.* Galatians 5:22-25 (New Living Translation)

*For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.* Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

- Believers grow in Christian practices.

*For we remember before our God and Father how you put your faith into practice, how your love made you work so hard, and how your hope in our Lord Jesus Christ is firm.* 1 Thessalonians 1:3 (GNT)

- **Question #2: HOW DO I GROW AS A BELIEVER?**

*. . . And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.* 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)

The how-to of spiritual growth: When the opportunity for growth occurs, capitalize on it.

### How to Be Intentional About Spiritual Growth

- Become aware of your current need (growth area).
  - Circumstance #1: A need-to-grow situation
  - Circumstance #2: A need-to-know situation
- Connect with the people and biblical resources that can help you grow.

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.<sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* Hebrews 10:24-25 (New International Version)
- Plan your next steps.

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