# The Next Step

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September 20-21, 2014

*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation* ... 1 Peter 2:2 (New International Version)

No matter where you're at spiritually, there is always a next level of spiritual growth.

## Three things a believer might consider to foster a relationship with God:

## 1: EVALUATE YOUR <u>CURRENT RELATIONSHIP</u> WITH JESUS.

What we're passionate about will determine how we organize our lives.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me.<sup>25</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it." Matthew 16:24-25 (New Living Translation)

# 2: UNDERSTAND THE GOAL OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION.

"**Spiritual formation** is the process that takes place in believers as God transforms our lives through deepening love and intimacy with Him." Thomas Ashbrook

The primary goal of spiritual formation is a <u>deepening love relationship</u> with God!

..." 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment....' " Matthew 22:37-38 (NIV)

#### 3: UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS <u>PRACTICALLY</u> TO DEEPEN YOUR LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

We must open ourselves to God's love at deeper and deeper levels.

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3 (NIV)

## Ways to Foster a Deeper Love Relationship with God

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

*My* dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, <sup>20</sup>how I wish I could be with you now ... Galatians 4:19-20a (NIV)

## "MY NEXT STEP TODAY" CARD



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