Spiritual Growth

Adam Willingham · Philippians 3:12–16

INTRODUCTION

- So we are to be constantly striving to attain new heights spiritually.
- So Paul was a work in progress. And we're all a work in progress.
- So wherever you are in your spiritual walk, grow from there.

1 Faith, Contentment and Joy

2 Peter 1:5–7; Philippians 4:11–13; 1 Peter 1:8

- So in many people who believe, there is still some element of unbelief, and it's a growth process.
- We should strive to be more and more content with our present circumstances, the circumstances that we cannot change, to accept them and to be happy in them.
- I believe that our joy in the Lord as Christians should grow more and more the longer that we are Christians.
- And if you have the Lord, then you have cause to rejoice.

2 Zeal, Evangelism and Hospitality

Romans 12:11; Jeremiah 20:9; Acts 2:46

- We should grow to become more and more zealous all the time.
- The real meaning of the Greek word translated fervent, is boiling. So literally, it's boiling in spirit.
- What we need to do is we need to realize that we have something to say and we have to say it.
- We should take advantage of more opportunities to feed, keep, and entertain strangers as well as our brethren, and to do so without complaint.

3 Encouragement, Patience and Humility

Hebrews 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Numbers 12:3

- I believe that we should make more of an effort, to proactively encourage one another, day by day.
- What I have seen is that brethren all over the place are practically starving for encouragement.
- Be patient with all. Everyone. Not just the lovable ones. Not even just the likable ones. All of them.
- The humblest men and women that I know are people who are the strongest in the Lord.

4 Resistance to Temptation, Guarding Our Heart, Hatred of Sin

Proverbs 4:23

- Sin equals desire plus opportunity plus action.
- We need to be growing to desire sin less and less.
- Keep your heart or guard your heart with all diligence. For from it flow the springs of life.
- It's okay to hate Satan. It's okay to hate sin, and it's okay to hate hell.

5 Purity of Thoughts and Purity of Speech

Matthew 15:19; Philippians 4:8; James 3:2

- Sinful thoughts are easy to hide from others, but you cannot hide them from God.
- We need to let God's word train our thoughts to be less and less carnal and more and more pure with every passing day.
- We must learn to increasingly control our tongue.
- If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

6 Love for the Lord

John 21:15–17

- Our love for God should be something that continues to grow more and more with every passing day until the day that we die.
- Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me more than these? He said to him, Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.
- But he did not love the Lord enough to stand up for him and to confess his name. His love was growing.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **So to whatever degree you have attained, let us grow from there.**

MY NOTES