



- How **intentional** are you with your life?

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Ephesians 5:15-17

It pays to take life seriously; things work out when you trust in God. Proverbs 16:20 (MSG)

- The significance of our life is experienced in God's **purpose** for our life.

...understand what the Lord wants you to do. Ephesians 5:17

- God designed you to **grow** spiritually.

For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son... Romans 8:29 (TLB)

Spiritual Growth is a **natural** process for every Christ follower.

"It's Natural":

- Doesn't mean it happens without our **attention**.

Truth is:

Spiritual growth is a **joint** project.

Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Philippians 2:12-13 (NLT)

God works **in**, we work **out**.

- Doesn't mean it happens **instantly**.

Truth is:

It is a **process** that takes **time**.

6 And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust him, too, for each day's problems; live in vital union with him. 7 Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all he has done. 8 Don't let others spoil your faith and joy with their philosophies, their wrong and shallow answers built on men's thoughts and ideas, instead of what Christ has said. Colossians 2:6-8 (TLB)

- Doesn't mean it happens **constantly**.

6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

Growth is:

- Growth is the process of **discipleship**.

As disciples we are all **learners**.

- Growth is also the process of **becoming**.

29 For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son... Romans 8:29 (TLB)

We can't let a **system** becomes more important than the **goal**.

For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him...should become like his Son... Romans 8:29 (TLB)

Growth comes in many ways:

- Growth can come from **revelation**.

And when God is personally present, a living Spirit, that old, constricting legislation is recognized as obsolete. We're free of it! All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (MSG)

- Growth can come because it's **forced** on us.

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. James 1:2-4 (MSG)

Difficult times **develop** us.

5 ...you need more than faith; you must also work hard to be good, and even that is not enough. For then you must learn to know God better and discover what he wants you to do. 6 Next, learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly, gladly letting God have his way with you. 7 This will make possible the next step, which is for you to enjoy other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply. 8 The more you go on in this way, the more you will grow strong spiritually and become fruitful and useful to our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-8 (TLB)

The process of spiritual growth:

- Open your **heart** to **God**.

...learn to know God better and discover what he wants you to do. 2 Peter 1:5 (TLB)

- **Surrender** yourself to God.

6 Next, learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly, gladly letting God have his way with you. 2 Peter 1:6 (TLB)

- Open your **heart** to **others**.

7 This will make possible the next step, which is for you to enjoy other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply. 2 Peter 1:7 (TLB)

Character is how we **treat** others.

Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls! Hebrews 12:2-3 (MSG)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- In your own words - How important is spiritual growth and what does that mean?
- What is difficult about spiritual growth to you? (Are you a perfectionist, are you a fatalist?)
- How do we tend to allow a growth "System" become the goal? What are some systems we use to replace the goal? What is the goal of spiritual growth?
- Have you ever had a season where you grew through revelation? (What does that mean?)
- Have you had a season where growth was forced on you? How difficult was that?
- How do we open our heart to God? How does this help us to grow?
- How do we surrender ourselves to God? How does this help us to grow?
- What does it mean to open our heart to others? Why does this help us to grow?

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