

Ducks in a Row

ESTABLISHING RIGHT PRIORITIES



...fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it... Romans 12:2a (MSG)

- Our priorities demonstrate how _____ we are with our lives. 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)

A deceived faith is a belief in God without _____ to God. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder. James 2:19

A deceived faith has knowledge about God but no _____ from God.

- God designed you to _____ 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 _____ process for every Christ follower.

"It's natural" doesn't mean:

- Doesn't mean it happens without our _____.

Truth is:

Spiritual growth is a _____ 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)

Truth is:

God works _____, we work _____.

- Doesn't mean it happens _____.

Truth is:

It's a _____ that takes _____. And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust him, too, for each day's problems; live in vital union with him. 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. 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 _____.

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)

Spiritual Growth is:

- Growth is the process of _____.
- Growth is also the process of _____.

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)

- When we prioritize the process, it leads us to the _____.

The goal is becoming more like _____.

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 _____.

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 _____ 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 _____ us.

...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. Next, learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly, gladly letting God have his way with you. 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. 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)

Action steps for spiritual growth:

- Open your _____ to God.

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

- _____ yourself to God.

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 _____.

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)

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... Hebrews 12:2-3 (MSG)



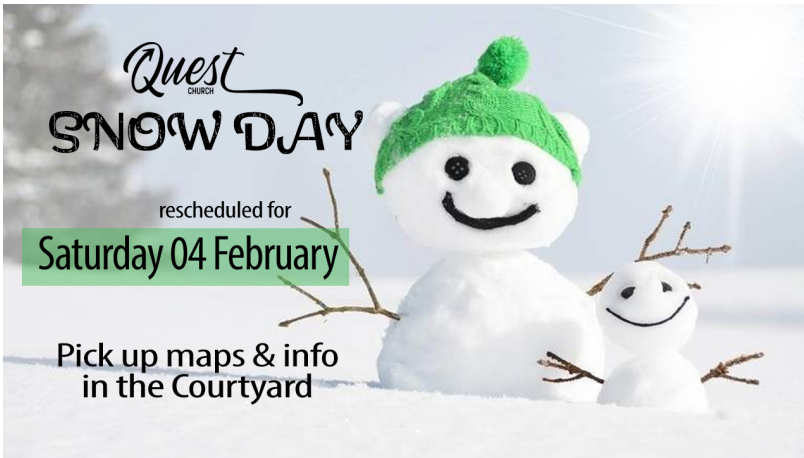
TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in 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?
- How important is spiritual growth in our lives? Why?
- Does everyone grow spiritually?
- What keeps us from growing spiritually? Do you see growth in your life?
- What are some difficulties of the growth process?

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Today's Talk..



Growing Spiritually

Sunday, January 22nd, 2023

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