

## How To Grow Spiritually

Philippians 3:10-16

### Introduction:

- Our society has changed its labels on people to ones that are “nicer”:
  1. Changed “retarded” to mentally \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Changed “deformed” to physically \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Changed “old people” to the \_\_\_\_\_
- When it comes to spiritual growth, many Christians may think themselves to be spiritually handicapped or disabled. God’s word instructs us that every Christian can grow:
  1. Regardless of their sinful p\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Regardless of their p\_\_\_\_\_ weaknesses
  3. Regardless of their p\_\_\_\_\_ struggles
- Today we are going to learn how to grow spiritually
  1. Do you want to grow spiritually? Yes No Don’t Care
  2. Will you apply the principles of spiritual growth? Yes No

### A \_\_\_\_\_ relationship not performance (10,11)

- Prior to becoming a believer in Christ, the apostle Paul focused on p\_\_\_\_\_ (keeping religious rules)
  1. He knew who Christ was but did not k\_\_\_\_\_ Him personally
  2. He had to abandon his focus on his own performance in order to gain Christ.
- Paul’s desire then became (the word “know” means to experience)
  1. To know Christ – to experience the p\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ
  2. To know the power of His resurrection – to experience the p\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ
  3. To know the fellowship of His sufferings – to experience the p\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ
- Application – whenever you get spiritually frustrated with yourself because you’ve failed to do what you know you should do address your relationship:
  1. Consider these scriptures:
    - a. Matt 22:37 – I \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
    - b. Jn 14:15 – If you l\_\_\_\_\_ Me, you will keep My commandments
    - c. 1 Jn 2:5 – Whoever keeps God’s word, His l\_\_\_\_\_ has been perfected in him (i.e. love has reached its goal).
  2. We do not get closer to God by doing the right things. We do the right things because we are c\_\_\_\_\_ to God.
    - a. You must d\_\_\_\_\_ to love Him with your whole being.
    - b. Loving Him will result in experiencing Christ as a teacher, comforter, helper, guide or Him using you for His glory.
    - c. Loving Him will result in experiencing His resurrection power (power to o\_\_\_\_\_ sin – Rom 6:4)
    - d. Loving Him may result in s\_\_\_\_\_ (peer rejection, ridicule, abuse, etc. – Jn 15:18; 1 Jn 3:13)

### S \_\_\_\_\_ progress not perfection (12,15,16)

- The Greek word translated perfect has two meanings
  1. Without s\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12a)
  2. M\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 15)
- Paul commands believers to live according to the s\_\_\_\_\_ of maturity that we have reached (v. 16) – this tells us
  1. That we all are at d\_\_\_\_\_ maturity levels
  2. That God is not concerned about perfection but p\_\_\_\_\_
  3. God will use every believer who actively loves Christ whether
    - a. A spiritual b\_\_\_\_\_ - one who is struggling through overcoming the sinful past (1 Cor 3:1; 1 Pet 2:1,2)
    - b. A spiritual y\_\_\_\_\_ - one who has overcome the sinful past and is actively applying God’s word (1 Jn 2:14)
    - c. A spiritual a\_\_\_\_\_ - apparent wisdom seen in attitudes and actions (Phil 3:15)
- The point is to p\_\_\_\_\_ - how?

**P\_\_\_\_\_ ahead without looking back (13,14)**

●The apostle Paul recognized that he had a l\_\_\_\_\_ way  
to grow spiritually and uses the metaphor of a distance

r\_\_\_\_\_

1. K\_\_\_\_\_ running
2. Does not look b\_\_\_\_\_
3. Thinks about what is at the f\_\_\_\_\_ line

●Application

1. A\_\_\_\_\_ your wrong to God and to those you've openly sinned against.
2. A\_\_\_\_\_ God's forgiveness for that sin
3. L\_\_\_\_\_ from your failure, determining never to repeat it instead of dwelling on the past.
4. M\_\_\_\_\_ on with your life, loving the Lord with all your heart.

See the Spiritual Maturity Chart