

LESSON # 5
WHAT IS INVOLVED IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

I. SOME REASONS WHY EVERY CHILD OF GOD NEEDS TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

A. When a person is saved he is born again spiritually into

God's family and becomes a spiritual _____

(Jn. 1:12; I Cor. 3:1). Just like a baby born into a

fleshly family must have nourishment to grow and develop,

so must a new christian. Notice while getting saved is an

_____ transformation (II Cor. 5:17)

spiritual growth is a _____ of development (Eph. 4:11-15).

B. When a person is saved he not only acquires a new nature

which is _____ (II Pet. 1:4) but he

receives the _____ and _____ for

spiritual growth (II Pet. 3:18).

C. When a person is saved it becomes a spiritual

_____ or _____ to develop

spiritually. When a believer fails to grow spiritually

he displays _____ to the Lord's command

(II Pet. 3:18); I Tim. 2:15) and limits himself in God's

service (Heb. 5:11-14).

D. When a person is saved and doesn't grow spiritually he misses the purpose which the Lord has for him. It is

the goal of every believer to become more and more like the _____ in every aspect of his life (II Cor. 3:18).

a. Notice God's purpose in saving us is for _____ and spiritual development is necessary for service (Eph. 4:13-16; Rom. 6:11-13; II tim. 3:16).

b. Notice the christian is to _____ the Lord in a life of service (Eph. 2:10; I Cor. 10:31; Jn. 15:8). When a christian fails to develop spiritually his life will not be glorifying to the Lord.

II. SOME OF THE AREAS IN WHICH THE CHILD OF GOD NEEDS TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

A. Every child of God needs to develop and increase in the _____ of God and how He deals with His children (Col. 1:10; Heb. 12:5-11).

B. Every child of God needs to grow and develop in the area of christian _____ (I Thess. 3:12; II Thess. 1:3; II Pet. 1:4-8).

C. Every child of God needs to grow spiritually in his _____ with Christ. This ought to involve a deeper sense of _____ and _____ (I Jn. 4:19; II Cor. 5:14), a deeper _____

and _____ (Jn. 3:30; Phil. 2:9-11),

and a deeper commitment to carry out His _____
(Acts 20:22-24; 21:13; Phil. 1:20,21).

D. Every child of God needs to grow spiritually in finding

out what the Lord's _____ is and going about to

_____ His will (Eph. 5:17; Col. 1:9;

Heb. 13:21). When a believer fails to grow in these

areas his spiritual immaturity usually results in a poor

testimony and brings reproach upon the Lord.

III. SOME OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CHILD OF GOD TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

A. For the child of God to grow spiritually he must receive

the spiritual nourishment which is the _____ of

God (I Pet. 2:2; Jn. 6:23; II Tim. 3:16,17; Psa. 1:1-3).

B. Notice since spiritual growth is predicated upon

receiving the nourishment of God's Word there are

several things which will help us to develop more

quickly:

1. A believer can grow spiritually by having a time of
devotions and getting into God's Word (Psa. 1:1-3;
119:15,16).

2. A believer will grow spiritually by being in

_____ and _____
in which he is instructed and challenged by the Word
of God (Heb. 10:25).

3. A believer will grow spiritually by fellowshiping
with other _____ who are spiritually
mature (Titus 2:2-8).

4. Believers can also grow spiritually by reading good
_____, listening to good
_____ and attending other
christian functions in which Christ is exalted and
saints are exhorted and encouraged spiritually
(I Thess. 5:14; 3:12,13; 4:1).

C. For the child of God to grow spiritually he must yield
himself to the Holy Spirit's _____ and
_____ (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16,18). This
involves the spirit of God using the Word of God to speak
to our hearts and direct us (II Cor. 3:18)). As we yield
to Him we continue to develop spiritually but when we fail
to yield to Him we grieve Him and our spiritual growth
stops (Eph. 4:30; Heb. 5:12).

IV. SOME OF THE HINDRANCES WHICH WILL KEEP THE CHILD OF GOD FROM GROWING SPIRITUALLY.

A. A believer will not experience proper spiritual growth

when he is unfaithful in _____
(I Cor. 4:2; Rom. 10:17; Heb. 10:25).

B. A believer will not develop proper spiritual growth if he

neglects the practice of having _____
(Isa. 30:15; 40:31; Matt. 4:4).

C. A believer will not grow spiritually if he is

_____ to the Word of God and will not
yield himself to the Spirit's control (I Pet. 1:22;
Heb. 5:11-14; Gal. 5:16-18).

D. A believer will not experience proper spiritual growth

unless he learns to claim God's _____ and
_____ Him in the various trials and circum-
stances of this life (Rom. 5:3-5; II Cor. 1:20,21).

V. SOME OF THE BLESSINGS WHICH COME TO THE CHILD OF GOD WHO DEVELOPS PROPER SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

A. The believer who experiences proper spiritual growth will

not be ensnared and entangled by the cunning _____
of the devil which lead many astray (Eph. 4:13,14;
I Jn. 4:1-3). The new convert who fails to grow
spiritually is especially vulnerable to the false
teachings of the religious cults which the devil uses to
ensnare those who are undiscerning.

B. The believer who experiences proper spiritual growth

will be greatly _____ in God's service and will
bring great _____ to God (Acts 6:1-6; I Cor. 6:4;
Gal. 6:1; I Tim. 3:6).

C. The believer who continues to grow spiritually will avoid
many of the problems which result from a _____
life (I Cor. 3:1-3; Gal. 6:8).

VI. MEMORY VERSES : II PET. 3:18; I PET. 2:2; II COR. 3:18.

VII. QUESTIONS RELATING TO THIS LESSON

A. Salvation is instantaneous but spiritual growth is a
_____ of _____.

B. What does the believer need in order for him to grow
spiritually (I Pet. 2:2)

C. Name 3 things which will help a believer to grow
spiritually.

D. Name 3 areas in which the christian needs to grow.

E. What 2 Scriptures command us to grow spiritually and point out to us that it is an obligation and duty?

F. Which believers are especially vulnerable to the devil's false teachings?

G. Name 3 blessings which result from proper spiritual growth?
