

How To Grow as a Believer & Follower of Jesus

Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm

Begins August 2



Class 1, Wednesday, August 2

NOTE: The “bird picture” was taken from Pastor Jack’s front door. A bird built a nest in a plastic wreath, laid eggs, and fed the babies until they left the nest. We enjoyed watching the growth process!

Class Introduction & Guidelines

Meet in Building C—for now—from 6:30 to 7:30 on Wednesdays.
(We need a break next week for an important business meeting.)

Format: This is an interactive class more than a sermon. There will be activities, questions, and interaction. Jump in and participate!

The class begins on August 2 and continues until we’re done.

Videos will be online in our class section if you miss a class or if you prefer to watch online.

Tonight’s Bible Verse

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Peter 2:1-3, NIV)

Things To Know About Spiritual Growth

1. It is a n_____ p_____ with no p_____. You’re either moving forward or backward.
2. It is a r_____ process.
3. It requires d_____, w_____, s_____, and t_____.
4. Aid from f_____, c_____, and f_____ is helpful.

Requirements for Spiritual Growth

Spiritual growth has three elements. It is not often taught in these terms (we tend to teach these things in separate classes), but real spiritual growth requires the following three elements. Note that “ortho” in Greek means “straight, upright, or correct.”

1. **O_____:** You need the right beliefs.

You must understand the truth about God, Jesus, mankind, the Holy Spirit, the church, salvation, faith, prayer, and much more. These are usually taught in Bible or doctrine classes—but these truths are necessary for growth.

2. **O_____:** You need the right disciplines.

Daily and weekly practices must become instinctive. Worship, prayer, confession, Bible study, service, and more must be as regular for you as sleeping, eating, and brushing your teeth.

3. **O_____:** You need the right practices.

Right practices are essential. Growth is on-the-job-training, so we must be active in loving, forgiving, serving, and getting rid of (repenting) of the things mentioned in our key verse. Knowing the truth and practicing the disciplines without living the faith leads to a destructive hypocrisy, which kills more Christian families and churches than anything else.

The Goals of Christian Growth

Growth doesn’t produce know-it-alls or self-righteousness. This false spirituality (Biblical Pharisees) repels people. Real disciples attract people to Jesus. How do you know that you’re growing?

1. Others _____.
2. The F _____.
3. Y _____.

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