

How To Grow as a Believer & Follower of Jesus

Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm

Begins August 2



Class 2, Wednesday, August 16

NOTE: A bird built a nest on Pastor Jack's door, laid eggs, and fed the babies. We enjoyed watching the process. They are now full grown!

Class Introduction & Guidelines

Meet in Building C tonight! Starting next week, we move to MAC 6.

Format: This is an interactive class more than a sermon. Participate!

Videos are online in our class section if you miss a class.

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)

Review from 2 Weeks Ago about Spiritual Growth

1. Growth is never-ending. You either grow or decline.
2. It is a replacement process.
3. It requires desire, work, study, and time.
4. Aid from family, church, and friends is helpful.

Spiritual growth has three elements. Orthodoxy (right beliefs), Orthodiscy (disciplines), and orthopraxy (right practices.)

Growth doesn't produce know-it-alls, self-righteousness, or false spirituality. Growth leads to **recognition** (people notice you are a follower of Jesus), **fruit** (the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23) and **discipleship** (you are doing things to grow the kingdom.)

Tonight's Focus – Step One. Honest Evaluation

Peter tells us to “*rid ourselves*” of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. It is not an exhaustive list of things that hinder growth, but getting rid of negatives is necessary. These negatives aren't even actions; they are attitudes. Why don't we deal with the negatives?

- We grade _____.
- We grade _____.
- We h _____.
- We j _____.
- We t _____.

If we want to grow, we must be willing to start with an honest and thorough evaluation of our character. How do we do that?

How to Conduct an Honest Evaluation

Do you remember Jesus telling the disciples (see Matthew 25) that a traitor was in their midst? Apparently, 11 of them honestly asked, “Is it I?” Judas asked the same question but was dishonest.

Obviously, honesty is a key in any form of personal evaluation.

1. P _____.
2. M _____.
3. C _____.
4. A _____.
5. B _____ using prayer, confession, repentance, and accountability.

Lessons from the 12 Steps

If you know the “12 Steps” used in programs like AA and Celebrate Recovery, then you know that steps 4-7 relate to this evaluation:

4. I've made a searching and fearless moral inventory of myself.
5. I've admitted to God, myself, and to another human being the exact nature of my wrongs.
6. I'm ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. I've humbly asked Him to remove my shortcomings.

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