

THE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

Session 5 – The Discipleship (Maturity) of the Committed

Turning Members into Mature Followers

*“We are not meant to remain as children at the mercy of every chance wind of teaching.... But we are meant to hold firmly to the truth in love, and to **grow up** in every way into Christ, the head.”*

Ephesians 4:14 (PH)

*“**Grow** in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

2 Peter 3:18

Myths About Spiritual Growth

Myth #1: Growth is automatic.

Myth #2: Growth is instantaneous.

Myth #3: You can grow just by attending church.

Myth #4: You can attain maturity by yourself.

Myth #5: You measure spiritual growth by how much you know.

How do you know when you have reached spiritual maturity?

You bear fruit!

“Every good tree bears fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.... By their fruit you will recognize them.”

Matthew 7:17, 20 (NIV)

Eight Beliefs About Spiritual Growth

1. Spiritual growth is _____.

Facts About Commitment

1. We become what _____.

2. Every church _____ by what it is committed to.

“Among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.”

2 Thessalonians 1:4 (NIV)

3. You must _____, or else you won’t get it.

4. People want to be committed to something that _____.

“Come, follow Me, and I will show you how to fish for people!”

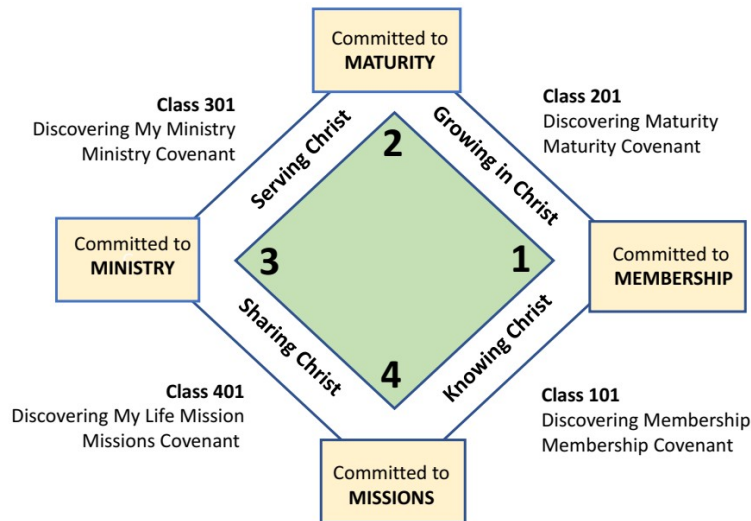
Matthew 4:19 (NLT)

2. Spiritual growth is _____.

**Knowing Christ, to loving Christ, to growing in Christ,
to serving Christ, to sharing Christ.**

The baseball diamond we looked at in our first session offers a systematic pathway for spiritual growth.

Life Development Process



*“When Jesus turned and saw [Andrew and John] following Him, He asked, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said, ‘Rabbi, where are you staying?’ ... He answered, ‘**Come and see.**’ So the two men went with Jesus and saw where He was staying and stayed there with him that day.”*
John 1:38-39 (NCV)

“If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”
Luke 9:23 (NIV)

3. Spiritual growth is _____.

We don’t all grow spiritually the same way.
Some people learn best by listening. They grow through the ear-gate.
Others learn best by reading. They grow through the eye-gate.
Some learn best by discussing. They grow through the mouth-gate.
Others learn by doing. They grow through the hand-gate.

What is a Spiritual Growth Focus?

An intensive, extended, all-church emphasis involving every age group that focuses on a particular aspect of spiritual growth.

God makes me responsible to do a personal evaluation of my growth:
In the Appendix (at the end of your notes), there are tools to help you to assess your spiritual growth and of others in your church.

Spiritual Health Assessment
Spiritual Health Plan

4. Spiritual growth is _____.

1. We grow by developing good habits.

“The second half of a man’s life is determined by the habits he acquired during the first half.”
Dostoyevsky

“Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.”
1 Timothy 4:7 (PH)

THREE MOST IMPORTANT SPIRITUAL HABITS

Putting Christ first in my Time, Money, and Relationships

1. A DAILY _____ GOD.

Mark 1:35: *“Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.”*

2. A WEEKLY _____ GOD.

1 Corinthians 16:2: *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income.”*

3. A COMMITTED _____ GOD.

Hebrews 10:25: *“Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another....”*

Maturity Covenant

By God's grace, I commit to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Daily Time with God
Mark 1:35 | Personal Bible reading and prayer. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Weekly Tithe to God
1 Corinthians 16:2 | Giving God the first 10% of my income. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Committed Team for God
Hebrews 10:25 | Fellowship with believers in a small group. |

"Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit!"

1 Timothy 4:7 (Phillips)

Signed

Date

Rich Schoenert, Pastor

2. We grow by developing in five levels.

Your Christian education program should be built around these five levels of learning:

Knowledge:

People need to know the content of God's Word, and gain a working knowledge of the books, events, and people of the Bible. Ask: What do people already know? What do they need to know?

Offer:

New believer Bible studies and

Surveys of the Old and New Testaments

Five Core Books: Genesis, John, Romans, Ephesians, James

Perspective:

Christian doctrine provides a Christian perspective. The following 7 areas of doctrine should be taught:

1. *Bible*: inspiration, authority, canonicity, etc.
2. *God*: attributes, trinity, and works of creation and providence.
3. *Humanity*: creation, fall, and election.
4. *Christ*: His person (deity and humanity) and work.
5. *Salvation*: calling, regeneration, conversion (faith and repentance), justification, adoption, sanctification, assurance, etc.
6. *Church*: nature, purposes, leadership, ordinances, spiritual gifts.
7. *Future*: personal future, second coming, millennial views, resurrection and final judgment, future state.

Also teach God's perspective about work, money, pleasure, suffering, emotional health, etc.

Convictions:

This level includes developing godly values, commitments and motivations.

Skills:

Skills are related to doing: how to study the Bible, how to pray, how to handle temptation, how to get along with other people, how to be a godly husband and wife, how to raise children, etc.

Character:

Becoming like Christ in attitudes and actions. A good place to begin is to teach the fruit of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22-23.

5. Spiritual growth is _____.

*“Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.
Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some people are doing. Instead,
let us encourage one another all the more.”*

Hebrews 10:24-25 (TEV)

Three Decisions You Can Make That Will Help You Grow Relationally

1. Get in a small group.
2. Get a spiritual coach.
3. Be a group host or spiritual coach.

6. Spiritual growth is _____.

Without *evangelism*, we become self-centered
 Without *discipleship*, we become experience centered
 Without *ministry*, we become knowledge centered
 Without *fellowship*, we become results centered
 Without *worship*, we become man centered
 Through all five purposes we become Christ centered.

We're to grow...

1. Warmer through fellowship
2. Deeper through discipleship
3. Stronger through worship
4. Broader through ministry
5. Larger through mission

In Discipleship—We learn the truth of how God wants us to grow.

In Evangelism—We share God's truth.

In Ministry—We apply God's truth.

In Fellowship—We're held accountable for God's truth.

In Worship—We express appreciation for God's truth.

7. Spiritual Growth is _____.

8. Spiritual growth is _____.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

*The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me
and gave Himself for me.”*
Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

(There are Personal & Church Exercises on the following pages.)

Personal Exercise

MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH PLAN!

1. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS INTENTIONAL**
What specific commitment do I need to make to grow?

2. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS INCREMENTAL**
Do I have a long-term plan for my growth?

3. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS PERSONAL**
Do I learn better by listening, reading, discussing or doing? Am I involving myself in what best helps me to grow?

4. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS PRACTICAL**
What habits do I need to begin to renew for my growth?

5. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL**
Which of the five purposes do I need to work with God to strengthen?

6. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS SEASONAL**
Am I trusting God whatever the season of my heart or my circumstances?

7. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS INCARNATIONAL**
Have I been trying to grow on my own power, or am I trusting more and more in Jesus' power?

Church Exercise

OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH PLAN!

1. SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS INTENTIONAL

What are the specific commitments you want to lead those in your church to make for their growth?

2. SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS INCREMENTAL

How do you help people to start and continue in a plan for their growth? Do you need to start the Class/Seminar series, such as 101, 201, 301, and 401?

3. SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS PERSONAL

How could you better help people to learn by the different “gates” of listening, reading, discussing and doing? Do you need to have a spiritual emphasis next fall or spring?

4. SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS PRACTICAL

How do you encourage the habits of spiritual maturity? Is there one habit that you especially need to encourage right now?

5. SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL

Which of the five purposes do you need to work with God to strengthen in your church?

6. SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS SEASONAL

Are there seasons that your members are facing right now in which you could give specific encouragement and direction for growth?

7. SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS INCARNATIONAL

Is there something additional you could do to strengthen the message for your church of trusting in Jesus’ power and not your effort for your spiritual growth?