

Essentials of Spiritual Growth

So much is written about spiritual growth. Anyone in a relationship with God wants to grow spiritually, yet often it can seem so complicated! We feel pulled between intellectual approaches on the one hand and the pursuit of mystical experiences on the other. One expert tells us to look back into the mists of time, while another tells us to look within, or to look at their list of how-to steps. In the midst of the noise, somehow Jesus can get lost. In this seminar, we will consider some simple biblical insights that will help us grow spiritually in a straightforward, practical, and Jesus-focused way.

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Spiritual Growth

Do you ever notice that you seem to be staying the same place – not growing?

Do you ever observe the same in the lives of people you are discipling or shepherding? What causes them to growth? What slows down growth in their lives?

Captive – Col 2:8

There is a plot underway, to take you captive

You can end up with something hollow and deceptive, just human traditions and principles of this world

Try harder, be self disciplined, believe in yourself

You have been given fullness – vs 9

They mystery – Christ in you - 1:24

What is the identity of a believer?

“Christ in me”

92 times in the New Testament

Christians – once – Acts 11:26

Believers – 21 times – 13 times in Acts

What did we receive when we were placed in Christ? Col 1:1-22

Hope 1:5
Truth 1:5
Grace 1:6
Spiritual wisdom 1:9
Understanding 1:9
Knowledge of His will 1:9
Knowledge of God 1:10
Power 1:11
Qualification 1:12
An inheritance 1:12
A share in the Kingdom of Light 1:12
Rescue 1:13
Redemption 1:14
Forgiveness of sins 1:14
Christ holding all things together 1:17
The Headship of Christ 1:18
Christ, the beginning 1:18
Resurrection 1:18
God's fullness 1:19
Reconciliation 1:20
Peace 1:20
Holiness 1:22
Cleansing from blemishes 1:22
Freedom from accusations 1:22

But – although I am “in” Christ that doesn't mean that all of these realities are ‘in me’ (Col 1:23). I have to receive them in faith in an ongoing way.

What are the channels, the roots, that mediate the life of Christ to me and nourish the life of Christ in me?

Four Roots

1. The Word – Col 1:5, 3:16
2. The Body – Col 2:19, 3:11-16
3. Prayer – Col 1:3, 1:9-10
4. The Holy Spirit – Col 1:8

Four Branches

1. Obedience – Col 3:1-11

What is the rhythm of obedience?
Look up, put off, put on

2. Love in action –Col 3:12-15

What is the cadence of love?
Receive and express

3. Worship - Col 3:16-17

What is the direction of Worship?
From my heart to his face

4. Evangelism – Col 4:3-6

What is the tone of evangelism?
Purposeful proactivity

Practical application: